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EASTERN

F.O.
371

1947

X

PALESTINE

File No. 84

pp. 5224 - 6089

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO 371

61845

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CLOSED
UNTIL

1978

61845

199

E

2

127

PALESTINE

E 5224

18 JUN

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 5224/84/31

E. A. Morales

Panamanian

Consulate

E-1010. CANI

13 June 1947

18 June -

Illegal Immigrant Ship.

Has immobilized the S.S. "BEATRIZ" temporarily and has ordered master to call intends to get to bottom of affair. Master "Compania Maritima" S.A. has made application to place "BEATRIZ" under Panamanian flag. He refused application on grounds that ship was suspect. See further information.

Last Paper.

5222.

References.

(Print.)

61845

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

(Index)

J.C. 1026/6

5/8/48

Next Paper.

5225

Wt 24772/717 17855 10/38 F.O.P.

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Reference:

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61845

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(Minutes.)
Señor Morales telephoned this morning to say that the Master of this ship has now agreed not to tow her away until we are satisfied.

I submit letter to Señor Morales about the S.S. BEATRIZ

(J.E. CABALLER)

23/6

J.E. Caballero
June 23

I was able to speak to Sr. Morales in the sense of the attached draft, when he called at the F.O. after a meeting at the C.O. about the "Beatriz". I think it's better to avoid a letter.

J.B. June 25

See further minutes within.

H.B. 227/2

CONSULADO GENERAL
DE LA REPUBLICA DE PANAMA

No. C-1010
EAM

E 5224

London, 13th June, 1947

18

Enter

3

I have the pleasure to confirm my telephone conversation of this morning when I stated that I had immobilised the s.s. "Beatriz", temporarily. I have instructed the Master to call on me and I understand that he will do so on Monday. I intend to go to the bottom of this affair and I shall keep you posted of what transpires from the results of my investigation.

On this, as on previous occasions, The Consulate General of Panama in London, has been only too pleased to co-operate with the Foreign Office in order to stop this disgraceful traffic. On the other hand, it is not possible to arrest a vessel permanently, on suspicions alone, and much as I will fight unscrupulous and dishonest shipowners, I would be most definitely opposed to taking any action against a shipowner who yet has to be proved guilty. A mistake here would be lamentable and could have serious repercussions in so far as the party involved, would no doubt suffer grievous material losses. And you will realise that I am not particularly interested to involve my Government in lawsuits caused by any such drastic action.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to inform you that Mr. Harry Landy, a Director of the "Compañía Marítima Geojunior S.A." has made an application to place the s.s. MARIA, a vessel belonging to the said Company, under the Panamanian flag. Bearing in mind what you

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had said to me in respect of this particular comp. I turned the application down for the time being and as I had of course to give a reason for doing so, I explained that this vessel was suspect. That I would consider a new application as soon as they, the Directors of the Company, could satisfy me that they had straightened matters up with the British Government. I believe that in this particular case I have acted once more in accordance with your wishes and given the British Government full cooperation. Mr Landy has since telephoned me to say that another director of the Company, Mr. Edward Lascelles Fleming K.C.M.P. had had a word with the Foreign Office who has stated that they had no objection whatsoever to such a transfer taking place. This is all very confusing and I would certainly be very pleased if you would kindly confirm that this is so.

Before closing, I would like to point out that a special and disturbing attitude has been taken by the Ministry of Transport and other pertinent British Authorities in respect of facilities, etc., normally granted to Foreign vessels, but now denied to vessels flying the Panamanian Flag. I know that an embargo has been placed by the British Government on the sale of any British vessel to any foreign flag, but I am also aware that exceptions are made, but when the name Panama is mentioned, proceedings are abruptly interrupted, as if synonyme of some horrible thing of some sort. A most unfair attitude considering our unconditional cooperation in all matters concerning the activities of our vessels.

RECEIVED IN C.B.

16 JUN 1947

SENT TO DEPT.

18 JUN 1947

J.G.S.Beith, Esq.,
Foreign Office, S.W.1

Eusebio A. Morales
Eusebio A. Morales
Consul General

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61845

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Albino

*A letter of 21st April 1954 from the
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama
to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
of the United Kingdom dated 21st April 1954
concerning the subject of the use of Panamanian
ships for Jewish illegal immigration.*

5

*The Butler.
Ref S/S, information to accept invitation
to Council with Pan American Ministers on
July 21st.*

*B.
10/7*

The Secretary of State's acceptance will undoubtedly give the Panamanian Minister great pleasure and should remove any resentment that Senor Porras still cherishes as a result of an article, which appeared in the Daily Mirror several weeks ago on the subject of the use of Panamanian ships for Jewish illegal immigration and which pilloried Panama as "a midget banana republic and a puppet of the United States" and the Panamanian flag as "the smelliest on the Seven Seas". Senor Porras protested formally to us at the time and we sent him a soothing reply explaining that we could not accept responsibility for what appeared in the press and assuring him that the Daily Mirror's allegations did not represent the views of His Majesty's Government.

North American Department have nothing which they would like the Secretary of State to raise with Senor Porras. Eastern Department, however,

/think

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I have asked Mr. Beeley to send you a separate minute about this.

(P. S. STEPHENS)
10th July, 1947.

Mr. Pable.

build you assemble the pp.
 showing exactly what the
 Panamanians have done. 1873. 7/12
 address given to the
 as indicated in the

7/10

1 2 3 4 5 6
 1 2
 Reference: **EO 371** / **61845**
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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3. I think the best course might be for the Secretary of State to express general appreciation of the Panamanian attitude, and to refer more specifically to the admirable co-operation received from Senor Morales in the case of the S/S "BEATRIZ" and otherships in U.K. ports.

(J.E. Cable).
11th July, 1947.

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	1			2	

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Reference: **FO 371** / **61845**

Registry
No. E 5224/84/31
J.E.C.

FOREIGN OFFICE
S.W.1.

June, 1947.

Draft.

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
~~Open.~~

Personal &
CONFIDENTIAL

Thank you for your letter No. C -
1010 of the 13th June about the

Señor E.A. Morales,
Panamanian
Consul-General,
London,

S.S. "BEATRIZ" ~~was a very grateful~~ *and*
~~for~~ the assistance you have given us in
~~regard to~~ *You will no doubt*
~~detaining this vessel. and we think it only~~
~~wish to know our reasons for~~
~~fair to give you our reasons for suspecting~~
~~suspecting the ship of being involved in~~
~~the Jewish illegal immigrant traffic.~~

from: Mr. Beith.

2. The S.S. "BEATRIZ" is suspect for
~~two reasons.~~ *the Master*
~~First of all, her Captain,~~
~~Mr. Hector Nicolatos, was formerly master~~
~~of the "ANAL" which, as you will remember,~~
~~was one of the ships which actually~~ *recently*
~~succeeded in reaching Palestine with a load~~
~~of Jewish illegal immigrants. The~~
~~"BEATRIZ" is also suspect because a certain~~ *Moreover*
~~Mr. Sophocles Pilides is associated with~~
~~her owners, the Compania Maritima Sphikasa.~~ *S.A.*
~~Pilides acts as a purchasing agent for~~
~~Emmanuel Fostinis, who is one of the~~
~~principal organisers of the Jewish illegal~~ *Shipping for*
~~immigration traffic.~~

M.I.5 Concur

N.A. Dept. Hist
for 23/6.
JB June 23

Superseded

You/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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FO 371 61845

E

E 5225

10

1947

PALESTINE

18

Registry
Number

E 5225/84/31.

FROM

F B Dodels.

No.

Admiralty

Dated

11.01.08/47.

Received
in Registry

11 Jan 1947.

18

Legal Immigrant Ships.

Transmit copy of a circular telegram sent
by Italian Navy Mercantile Division to
all Italian Port authorities on May 17
Requesting that vigilance be intensified
with arrival and departure of ships.

Last Paper.

5224

(Minutes.)

One up to the Italian Govt.
Italian Sec. 24/6.
Bonne 20

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

24/6
4/11/47

(Index.)

24/6
11/11/47

Next Paper.

E 5242

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61845

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Whitehall 9000
Extension 808

M.01008/47



enter
Admiralty, 11
Whitehall, S.W.1

11 June, 1947.

My dear Beith,

In case you have not received it from other sources, I enclose a copy of a free translation of a circular telegram sent by the Italian Ministry of Mercantile Marine to all Italian Port Authorities on the 17th May. It seems to me that this is very helpful.

Yours sincerely,

G. Woods.

E 5225

T.G.S. Beith, Esq.,
Foreign Office, 18 JUN
S.W.1.

GCBBD/OMF.
CCB.11.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	2	2	2

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COPY

12

FREE TRANSLATION OF CIRCULAR TELEGRAM SENT BY
ITALIAN MINISTRY OF MERCANTILE MARINE TO ALL ITALIAN
PORT AUTHORITIES ON 17th May, 1947. TEXT ALSO AGREED
UPON, AND APPROVED BY, MINISTRIES OF DEFENCE (NAVY),
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND INTERIOR.

In view of the increasing exodus of clandestine Jews observed by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence (Navy), and Interior, and with reference to previous instructions, I require that vigilance be intensified with the arrivals and departures of ships at ports and shores situated in your area, for vessels of both Italian and foreign nationality. In cases where foreign ships are suspected of engaging in clandestine emigration because of repairs, or re-victualling in Italian ports, immediate notice is to be given to this Ministry, and to the Ministry of Defence (Navy), and delay is to be exercised in the supply of fuels. With regard to Italian ships, particularly motor-schooners and landing craft, which are similarly suspected, Authorities are to be informed as above, and confirmation is to be obtained by visits to the ship, accompanied if necessary by the agent of Registro Italiano (Translators note: Italian equivalent of Lloyds agent). If suspicions are confirmed, the crew is to be interrogated, and clearance papers and fuel are to be withheld pending further instructions. In order to carry out these instructions to the best advantage, Port Authorities should take into account any rumours resulting from public talk, and keep closely in touch with the Public Safety Authorities who will receive similar instructions from the Ministry of Interior. Authorities are to impart clear instruction to dependencies in their area, and particularly to LOCAMARE (Local harbour office) and DELEMARE (Coastguard station).
ACKNOWLEDGE.

Minister of Mercantile Marine.

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202

1947

E

PALESTINE

E 5267

19 JUN

13

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 5267/84/31

F.O. Minute

116 Beth

12, June 1947

19 -

Illegal Immigrant Ships. 'BEATRIZ'

At meeting of Ministers on June 8, it was
decided not to introduce legislation in
the U.K. to enable ships of foreign registration
suspected of being concerned in illegal immigration
traffic to be detained in U.K. Ports.
However question of SS 'BEATRIZ' now at
BARRY.

Last Paper.

5242

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

G.E. 16/22/6

11/8/4

Next Paper.

E 5323

(Minutes.)

Please see also

E 5324

G.E. CABLE

19/6

JD, June 23

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Reference:

FO 371

61845

14
cutes
(minutes attached)

E 5267

UNIV

2. An urgent case has now arisen. The S.S. "BEATRIZ" of Panamanian registration is at Barb and the Ministry of Transport report that they cannot hold her longer under administrative delays. She has asked for a tug to take her to Antwerp and, although a British tug will not be forthcoming, she may easily get in a French or Spanish tug, and there will be nothing we can do to stop her being towed away.

3. The Minister of Transport is now willing to stretch existing powers and requisition the ship and has asked whether we see any objection from the point of view of our relations with the flag State, i.e. Panama.

4. Meanwhile, I have spoken to the Panamanian Consul-General, who has promised to instruct the ship not to leave and to ask the master for an explanation of his intentions. This should hold the situation for the present, but in case any slip should occur we should still decide whether in the last resort we will stop the ship leaving by requisitioning if necessary.

5. I think we should be prepared to do so and recommend that we should so inform the Ministry of Transport. Our representations to foreign Governments will be greatly weakened if we cannot stop suspect ships leaving British ports.

explained to him that he wanted to give his Govt. the opportunity to take action before we considered further measures ourselves

Ch. 2 Series

12th June, 1947.

(BEIT 4)

Legal Advisor
for sales.

1. From the legal point of view the requisitioning of the S.S. "BEATRIZ" would raise two questions.

(i) Could interference with the shipping which is Panamanian, be justified under international law? I think it could, provided that there is good reason to believe that there is an intention to use the "BEATRIZ" for the carriage of

illegal/

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FO 371/61845

Minutes.

illegal immigrants, and provided that the requisitioning authority purports to act regularly under English law. The Government of the U.K. is entitled to take any such measures within the territory of the United Kingdom as are necessary for the maintenance of public order and safety in Palestine, for whose administration the U.K. holds a mandate. Nevertheless, it would be much better to obtain prior consent of the Panamanian Government. Normally of course a ship is requisitioned to enable it to be used by the requisitioning State and not to prevent its use by others. The requisitioning of the "BEATRIZ" is, therefore, open to the rather technical objection that it is an inappropriate expedient in the circumstances of the case. It has something of the appearance of a "tabula in naufragio", and it would look better if the ship were prevented from sailing under a power to detain it.

(ii) Could the requisitioning be justified under English law? I understand from Mr. W. Graham of the Ministry of Transport that there is a doubt, on the interpretation of the Regulation under which it is proposed to requisition the "BEATRIZ", whether the language covers foreign ships. But I think the responsibility for deciding whether the necessary power exists under English law is with the Ministry of Transport and not this Department.

2. Consideration should be given to the possible repercussions of the proposed requisitioning of British shipping in foreign ports.

WVJ Evans
W.V.J. Evans.
13th June, 1947.

*Composite minute submitted
to Private Sec. for S/S
15 June 17*

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18 JUN 1947

SENT TO DEPT.

19 JUN 1947

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203

E

16

E 5323

20 JUN

1947

PALESTINE

Registry
Number

E 5323/84/51

FROM

Comdr W. E. Encked

No.

Cabinet
Office

Dated

19 Jun 1947

Received
in Registry

20

S.S. 'BEATRIZ'

Various various methods used to delay
ship 'BEATRIZ' at Barry. Captain
as indicated was thanks shot & will
eventually be able to charter a tug,
plus further counter measures to
continue delay.

Last Paper.

5267

References.

28/6

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

S/pt. Abandonment at:-

Paris

Brussels

Hague

Helsinki

Stockholm

Rome

Belgrade

Bucharest

Athens

Lisbon

26 June P.T.O.

(Action
completed.)

E 5323/84/51

(Index)

8/8/47

Next Paper.

5324

(Minutes.)

Comdr. Encked suggested that we should
send a letter, based on his, to all ~~ports~~ ports
likely to be concerned. This seems quite a good
idea and I submit draft accordingly. I have
addressed it to the recipients of E 4187, plus other ports
which have been active.

Encked
(J. E. CABLE)
20/6

Good JB June 20

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18

CONFIDENTIAL

CABINET OFFICE,
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
S.W.1.

E 5323

19th June, 1947

20 JUN

Dear Beith

I note that in the circular letter from the British Embassy at Paris to the Consuls at Marseilles, Nice and Bordeaux the Embassy suggests that Consuls should try to persuade port authorities to deny bunkers to suspect ships. I believe that you sent out a list of suggestions as to other administrative measures by which ships might be delayed, but I wonder whether the story of S.S. BEATRIZ would be of interest to your representatives abroad? Much ingenuity has been shown by the port authorities at Barry in the case of the BEATRIZ, and although the actions they have taken would not all be applicable in a French port, I suggest that if one of our Consuls succeeded in making an ally of the local Prefect the story of the BEATRIZ would give him a good basis for suggestions as to delaying tactics that might be applied.

You will remember that when the BEATRIZ first came to notice she was under repair. In present circumstances in England it was quite easy to refuse her a licence for material to enable her repairs to be completed. She was not immobile, however, and her next step was to try to get fuel to sail for a port abroad. This also, in present circumstances, was an easy one for us to stop.

The Captain of the BEATRIZ, however, was a determined man, and was not to be easily put off. His next step was to charter a tug to tow him away (to Antwerp). Fortunately we got wind of this and the word was at once passed to the Customs to refuse clearance if possible. Actually, in the end, the Customs were unable to deny clearance, for although they raised all the objections they could, the BEATRIZ's papers were in perfect order. They were, however, able to delay the granting of clearance for a matter of 48 hours, and this gave us time to put other measures into effect. The immigration authorities found that the crew were nearly all Poles resident in this country. As they were aliens who would want to return to this country eventually they were naturally eager not to fall foul of our immigration authorities and were thus persuaded without much difficulty to leave the ship.

At the same time the Ministry of Transport had got hold of the owners of the tug, and told them of their suspicions that the ship was to be used for illegal immigration. The owners of the tug thereupon cancelled the tug's orders.

Sooner or later, however, the Master of the BEATRIZ will succeed in chartering some foreign tug; that he is determined to do so is shown by the fact that he has now applied for permission to have the ship towed away as a hulk, i.e., with no crew on board. Customs can still find no grounds for refusing clearance, but both they and the

/immigration

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61845**

immigration officers will do their utmost to find some objection for refusing clearance to the foreign tug when and if she arrives. They will no doubt search the ship, and it will be surprising if they do not find something wrong, e.g. suspected smuggling.

Another measure which has been tried has been insurance; but Lloyds', in this case, have not been able to find any grounds for refusing insurance (you will remember that in another case this device has been most successful, in that insurance has been refused until the ship has been dry-docked for remeasurement. No dry docks are of course available).

Should all these devices fail there is still the hope that the BEATRIZ may physically be unable to leave the harbour. She is in an awkward berth and a single ocean-going tug may be unable to get her out, for of course no help will be given with harbour tugs or dockers to move her.

Finally the Ministry of Transport are holding up their sleeves the trump card of requisitioning. I do not know whether your Secretary of State has yet given permission for this card to be used. In any case, I rather hope that we shall never need to use it.

The case of the BEATRIZ has been a most interesting one, in that we have been up against a really determined Captain. I suspect that a large number of the captains of illegal immigration ships would prove less determined than Mr. Nicolatos, and that they are in the job for easy money. If so, when they find that, owing to delaying tactics on our part, their money is not going to be so easy after all, such men will very likely chuck their hands in altogether.

Yours,

Walter Emshue!

J.G.S. Beith, Esq.,
Foreign Office.

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3148 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

Registry
No. E5323/84/31

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
Confidential.
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

JEC

Draft.

H.M. Chancery at
Paris,
Brussels,
The Hague,
Stockholm, -
Copenhagen,
Rome,
Belgrade,
Bucharest, -
Athens,
Lisbon

From:

Eastern Department.

Copies to:

H.M. Consuls-General
at
Bordeaux,
Genoa
Marseilles.

Commander Evershed,
Cabinet Offices.

OUT FILE

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Chancery,

In our letter No. E4187/84/31
of the 30th May, we gave an account of the
various means whereby a ship suspected of
complicity in the illegal immigration
traffic into Palestine could legally or
administratively be detained in an
United Kingdom port.

2. We are now sending you an
account of the measures actually taken
to detain the S.S. "Beatriz" at Barry.
We hope this may be of some assistance to
you as a means of convincing the local
authorities that, if they really wish to
co-operate, there are many ^{practical methods} ways of delaying
such ships.

3. When the S.S. "Beatriz" first
came to our notice, she was under repair.
Because of the shortages of labour and
materials at present prevailing in England,
it was quite easy to refuse her a licence
for material to enable her repairs to be
completed. She was not immobile, however,
and her next step was to try to get fuel
to sail for a foreign port. This again
was easily prevented.

4. The captain of the Beatriz,
however, was a determined man and not
easily deterred. He chartered a tug to
tow him away to Antwerp. Fortunately, we
got wind of this and the Customs were
instructed to refuse clearance, if possible.
Although the Customs raised every possible
objection/

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objection, the ship's papers were unfortunately in perfect order and clearance could not ~~ultimately~~ ^{ultimately} be denied. It was, however, delayed for some forty-eight hours, which gave us time to adopt further measures.

The immigration authorities discovered that the ship's crew were nearly all Poles resident in this country. As they were aliens who would want to return to this country eventually, they were naturally reluctant to fall foul of our immigration authorities and were thus persuaded without much difficulty to leave the ship. In the meantime the Ministry of Transport had got into touch with the owners of the tug and had told them of their suspicions that the ship was to be used for illegal immigration. The owners of the tug thereupon cancelled the tug's orders.

5. It is feared, however, that the Master of the Beatriz will eventually succeed in chartering a foreign tug. If this does happen, the immigration officers will do their utmost to find some pretext for refusing clearance to the foreign tug when she arrives. They will no doubt search the tug, and it will be surprising if they do not find something wrong, e.g. suspected smuggling.

6. Another measure which has been tried, but in this case without success, was to persuade Lloyds to refuse insurance. Although Lloyds were quite willing to co-operate, they were unable to discover any grounds for such a refusal. In another case, however, this device was successfully employed. Insurance was refused until the ship should have been placed/

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No drydocks are, of course, available.

ports, owing to the willing co-operation of the authorities and of British firms concerned.

after losing money steadily in the harbour dues etc., would ~~have abandoned~~ the attempt.

8. We are sending copies of this letter to H.M. Consuls-General at Bordeaux, Genoa and Marseilles.

We leave it to your discretion how best to use this tale of frustration with the local authorities: but we think it will be particularly useful in refuting any suggestion that we are expecting other countries to take measures which we ourselves are not prepared to.

June 20

1 2 3 4 5 6
 1 2
 Reference: **FO 371** / **61845**

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

26th June, 1947.

(E 5323/84/31)

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Chancery,

In our letter No. E 4187/84/31 of the 30th May, we gave an account of the various means whereby a ship suspected of complicity in the illegal immigration traffic into Palestine could legally or administratively be detained in an United Kingdom port.

2. We are now sending you an account of the measures actually taken to detain the s.s. "Beatriz" at Barry. We hope this may be of some assistance to you as a means of convincing the local authorities that, if they really wish to co-operate, there are many practical methods of delaying such ships.

3. When the s.s. "Beatriz" first came to our notice, she was under repair. Because of the shortages of labour and materials at present prevailing in England, it was quite easy to refuse her a licence for material to enable her repairs to be completed. She was not immobile, however, and her next step was to try to get fuel to sail for a foreign port. This again was easily prevented.

4. The Captain of the Beatriz, however, was a determined man and not easily deterred. He chartered a tug to tow him away to Antwerp. Fortunately, we got wind of this and the Customs were instructed to refuse clearance, if possible. Although the Customs raised every possible objection, the ship's papers were unfortunately in perfect order and clearance could not be indefinitely denied. It was, however, delayed for some forty-eight hours, which gave us time to adopt further measures. The immigration authorities discovered that the ship's crew were nearly all Poles resident in this country. As they were aliens who would want to return to this country eventually, they were naturally reluctant to fall foul of our immigration authorities and were thus persuaded without much difficulty to leave the ship. In the meantime the Ministry of Transport had got into touch with the owners of the tug and had told them of their suspicions that the ship was to be used for illegal immigration. The owners of the tug therefore cancelled the tug's orders.

5. It is feared, however, that the Master of the Beatriz will eventually succeed in chartering a foreign tug. If this does happen, the immigration officers will do their utmost to find some pretext for refusing clearance to the foreign tug when she arrives. They will no doubt search the tug, and it will be surprising if they do not find something wrong, e.g. suspected smuggling.

6. Another measure which has been tried, but in this case without success, was to persuade Lloyds to refuse insurance. Although Lloyds were quite willing to co-operate, they were unable to discover

/any

The Chancery,
British Embassy,

Paris.
Brussels.
The Hague.
Copenhagen.

Rome.
Belgrade.
Athens.
Lisbon.

The Chancery,
British Legation,
Stockholm.
Bucharest.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371 / 61845**

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24

any grounds for such a refusal. In another case, however, this device was successfully employed. Insurance was refused until the ship should have been placed in a drydock for re-measurement. No drydocks are, of course, available.

7. It naturally proved easier to delay the "Beatriz" than it would be in the case of similar ships in foreign ports, owing to the willing co-operation of the authorities and of British firms concerned. On the other hand, her Master has shown unusual determination and resourcefulness in his efforts to get the ship away. It seems probable that many captains and owners would lose heart much earlier and, after losing money steadily in harbour dues etc., would abandon the attempt. We leave it to your discretion how best to use this tale of frustration with the local authorities: but we think it will be particularly useful in refuting any suggestion that we are expecting other countries to take measures which we ourselves are not prepared to.

8. We are sending copies of this letter to His Majesty's Consuls-General at Bordeaux, Genoa and Marseilles.

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

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Piece *61845*

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E 5324/84/31

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1	1	1	1	2	1

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205

E

E 5347

25

1947

PALESTINE

20 JUN

Registry
Number

E 5347/84/31

FROM

Constant and
Constant

No.

to table.

Dated

Received
in Registry

18, June

20 -

S.S. KORA

gives particulars of their previous concern
in the history of the KORA when she
was purchased. Enclose copy of letter
to RS plates A/S, on same subject
re investigation into statement made by Loucas
Manasteratos.

Last Paper.

5324

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Wt. J. B. DeKer
✓ June 25

(Action
completed.)

25/6

(Index.)

25/6

Next Paper.

E 5373

(Minutes.)

Letter to Mr. Lohm M.I.5

23/6

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO 371/61845

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TELEGRAMS: TWOCONSTS, STOCK, LONDON.
TELEPHONES: AVENUE 1191.
(PRIVATE BRANCH EXCHANGE)

Enter • E (Palestine)

BALTIC EXCHANGE CHAMBERS

24. ST. MARY AXE.

LONDON, E.C. 3.

~~Private and~~
Confidential.

E 5347

18th June, 1947.

AB/KB.

Sirs,

Re:- W K O R

For the attention of
Mr. Cable.

In the course of our talk on the telephone the other day, we mentioned that we had been concerned at an earlier stage in the history of the "Kora" when she was purchased.

In February last, on the instructions of Messrs.P. Nigham-Richardson & Co.Ltd., we were authorised to investigate some charges which had been made by the Chief Engineer, Loucas Marcantonatos, to the effect that the employees of the Norwegian vendors had received bribes.

The Norwegian Vendors were the wellknown shipowners, Messrs. Det Bergenske Dampskibsselskab, who resented the suggestion which had been made and demanded an investigation.

The investigation was conducted by one of our representatives who went to Cardiff for the purposes of interviewing the Chief Engineer, who confessed that his statements were false and that he had made same having a grudge against Captain Potamianos who was concerned with the vessel.

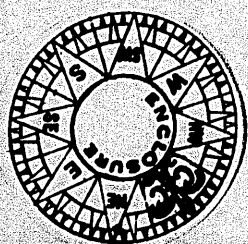
We are sending herewith, for your perusal, copy of a letter dated 26th February, 1947, which we wrote Messrs. R.S. Platou A/S, through whom the complaint of Messrs. Det Bergenske Dampskibsselskab was forwarded.

We have not copies of the statement which we obtained, nor of the documents upon which the investigation was instigated, but these are probably irrelevant for present purposes and our object in bringing these matters to your notice is so as to ensure that if any statements made by this Loucas Marcantonatos are being relied upon, same should be treated with a good deal of reserve.

We have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
(Eastern Division),
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.



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Reference:

FO 371 / 61845

- C O P Y -

CONSTANT & CONSTANT.

24, St. Mary Axe,
London, E.C.3.

27

Our Ref: AB/KB.
Your Ref: B/KK.

AIRMAIL.

26th February, 1947.

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of our Clients, Messrs. P. Wigham-Richardson & Co. Ltd., of Armadores House, Bury Street, London, E.C.3, we are desired to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo, with the respective enclosures thereto, and to inform you that immediately upon receipt of that letter our Clients instructed us to make a thorough investigation on their behalf.

Upon the arrival of the "Kora" recently in Cardiff Docks, we sent one of our representatives to interview Mr. Loucas Marcantonatos, serving on board as Chief Engineer, with a view to ascertaining from him the meaning of the most extraordinary communication that he sent to Mr. Hansen, which gives rise to your letter to our Clients and that written by Det Bergenske Dampskibsselskab, dated 24th ultimo.

We are satisfied, from our inspection of documents, that Mr. Marcantonatos, had no grounds whatsoever for making allegations to the effect that the employees of the Bergenske Company had received commissions or bribes. We are also satisfied that Mr. Marcantonatos' statement that he had provided the sum of £1,500, or any sum, to become a shareholder in the "Kora" is entirely devoid of truth. It appears that his man has a grudge against Capt. Potamianos and believed that if he could get some evidence, which was to the effect that Capt. Potamianos had offered bribes or commissions, he, Marcantonatos, would be in a position to undermine Capt. Potamianos' position with the owners and gain favour with them.

Our representative, who interviewed Mr. Marcantonatos, was handicapped by reason of the difficulty of language, as notwithstanding that Marcantonatos wrote to Mr. Hansen in English, he has no knowledge of that language and confesses that he had his letter written for him.

The various statements which Marcantonatos made in his letter to Mr. Hansen were put categorically to Marcantonatos by our representative through an interpreter. He insisted that he would not answer any questions, except when put to him either by Capt. Potamianos or by his owners. Our representative asked him whether he had seen Bergenske's letter of the 25th January, and the accompanying declaration by the individuals whom he had accused in that Company. He stated that he had not seen the letter or the statements. The interpreter therefore went through the letter and the accompanying declaration, sentence by sentence, and Marcantonatos was invited to write a letter admitting that what he had written was entirely untrue. He stated that he would not do so; persisted that Capt. Potamianos had led him to believe that the various payments had been made and declared that his only object in writing to Mr. Hansen was to check the veracity of Capt. Potamianos.

In the end, our representative succeeded in obtaining a statement from Marcantonatos (of which we are enclosing a certified copy herewith) the original of which we are holding at the disposal of whom concerned.

/It

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- 2 -

It will be seen that whilst Marcantonatos makes no withdrawal in his statement, he does specifically state that he accepts Bergenske's letter of the 24th January, 1947, and the accompanying declaration as constituting true statements by all concerned or affected by such statements.

This was as far as the matter could be carried with Marcantonatos, and he was summarily dismissed from further employment on the "Kora", and is now no longer serving on that vessel, or any vessel in the same ownership.

Our Clients, Messrs. P. Wigham-Richardson & Co., were just as concerned as were your firm and Messrs. Bergenske, that his man should have been guilty of such outrageous and untrue statements with regard to Bergenske's servants and employees, and it was for that reason they instructed us to conduct a thorough investigation with a view to eliciting the truth. We need hardly say that our Clients, and also Capt. Potamianos, have no responsibility for - and cannot control - the statements of a man who is obviously disgruntled and out for some form of revenge. They are indeed very sorry that the matter should have arisen, and on their behalf, and on behalf of Capt. Potamianos, we are instructed to express their regrets to Messrs. Bergenske and to emphasise that they never for one moment believed or suggested that their employees were implicated as alleged by Marcantonatos, or at all.

We hope you will be satisfied, from the foregoing, that by having us conduct a thorough investigation, our Clients have done exactly what Messrs. Bergenske would have done in similar circumstances, and they are sure that this unpleasant episode, which may now be regarded as closed, will not on any account be allowed to affect their friendly relationship with your Company and with Messrs. Bergenske.

Yours faithfully,

Messrs. R. S. Platou, A/S,
Shipbrokers,
Radhusgaten 23,
P.O. Box 575,
OSLO.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61845

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Registry
No. E 5347/84/31
J.E.C.

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
~~Open.~~

Draft.

70
D. J.
Mr. ~~J. B.~~ Schen
N. I. 5

from
J. E.
Mr. Lable

OUT FILE

23 a Foreign Office SW1.
June 1967,
29

25 June

Dear Shen,

I have received a letter from Mr. Barber, of Messrs. Constant and Constant, about the ^{former} chief Engineer of the illegal immigrant ship "KORA".

2. It appears that this individual, by name LOUCAS MARCANTONATOS, made a number of slanderous statements about employees of the Norwegian Shipping firm "DET BERGENSKE DAMPSKIBSELSKAB". On investigation, MARCANTONATOS withdrew these statements and confessed that he had made them from personal spite against Capt. POTAMIANOS. He was then dismissed from his employment.

3. All this took place ^{purpose} in February and the ~~point~~ of Mr. Bigler's letter was to suggest that too much reliance should not be placed on any statements made by ^{MARCANTONATO} I am forwarding this information

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

References:

FO 371 61845

on to you, for what it
is worth.

[Signature]
23/6

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) G. E. Cable.

30

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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1	2	3	4	5	6
1				2	
Reference: FO 371 / 61845					

OUT FILE FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1. 31

25th June, 1947.

(E 5347/84/31)
CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Sir,

I have received a letter from Mr. Barber, of Messrs. Constant and Constant, about the former Chief Engineer of the illegal immigrant ship "Kora".

2. It appears that this individual, by name Loucas Marcantonatos, made a number of slanderous statements about employees of the Norwegian shipping firm "Det Bergenske Dampskibsselskab". On investigation, Marcantonatos withdrew these statements and confessed that he had made them from personal spite against Captain Potamianos. He was then dismissed from his employment.

3. All this took place in February and the purpose of Mr. Barber's letter was to suggest that too much reliance should not be placed on any statements made by Marcantonatos. I am passing this information on to you, for what it is worth.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) (J.E. Cable)

D.J. Scherr, Esq.,
M.I.5.,
War Office.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61845

206

1947

E

PALESTINE

32
E 5373

24 JUN

Registry Number } E 5373/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

M. Boullier
San Jose.
36
18, June
21

S.S. 'COLONY TRADER'

Refers to U.G. 19. (E 4413/84/31) concerning
to the Ricas registration, but original current
are to Translucencia Compañia de Navegacion
Sd. of Puerto Nationality.

Last Paper.

5747

(Minutes.)

NA Dept. 27/6

20 June 23

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

7.7. dist
June 23

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

7/6/27/6

5/4/48

Next Paper.

5457

30471 F.O.P

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371/61845

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E 537 B

21 0000

DEPARTMENTAL No. 1.

Cypher/OTP

FROM SAN JOSE TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Coultas. D. 6.00 p.m. 18th June, 1947.
No. 36.
 18th June, 1947. R. 3.35 a.m. 19th June, 1947.

3 3 3

Your telegram No. 19.

I confirm Costa Rican registration of vessel named but original owners are La TransAmerica Compania de Navegacion S.A. of Panama nationality.

2. Costa Rican Government have intimated that they would cancel registration of any vessel proved to be participating in this traffic.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

27 JUN 1964

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Reference:-

FO 371 61845

1247

E

E 5457

34

PALESTINE

24 JUN

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 5457/84/31.

Embassy

Oceana

25.2.

18. June
24 -Illegal Immigrant Ship.

Refer to O.L. 1227 (E 4832/48/5) transmits
copy of note N° 282 of June 18 to H.M. Sec
of Foreign Affairs. Stating that a number
of organizers of Illegal Immigrant Shipping
in Greek waters are that these be
blacklisted. etc.

Last Paper.

5373

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed)

G.E. 30/6

(Index.)

M. 30/6

Next Paper.

5458

(Minutes.)

Now see E 5534 and action

Thereon.

27/6

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Reference:

FO 371/61845

No. 252
46/186/47

Secret

E

His Majesty's Ambassador presents his compliments to
His Majesty's Principal Secretary of
State for Foreign Affairs

and has the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the under-
mentioned paper.

BRITISH EMBASSY TO GREECE,
~~CAIRO~~ ATHENS

18th June 1947 24 JUN

Reference to previous correspondence :

F.O. telegram 1227 of 7th June

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Note No. 282 of June 18th from H.M. Embassy, Athens, to Royal Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs.	Illegal Jewish Immigration.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	2	2	2

Reference: FO 371 / 61845

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36

ATHENS

His Majesty's Embassy present their compliments to the Royal Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs and, with reference to recent correspondence on the subject of the illegal immigration of Jews into Palestine, have the honour to invite the attention of the Royal Hellenic Government to the fact that a number of the principal organisers of the shipping involved in this traffic are Greek nationals.

The Royal Ministry will recall that, in their Note No. 25432 of the 6th May, it was stated that legislation was then in the course of preparation with the object of providing for severer penalties (notably confiscation) against ships involved in these illegal activities. His Majesty's Embassy accordingly trust the promulgation and application of this legislation will be effected at an early date.

At the same time His Majesty's Embassy have been instructed by His Majesty's principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to state that, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, it would be of the greatest advantage if the Royal Hellenic Government would be prepared to assume powers to take effective action against the organisers of this traffic, should it be the case that they are at present without such powers. In the opinion of His Majesty's Government it is as important to hamper the activities of the individuals concerned in the traffic, as it is to provide for the control of any vessels which may be so engaged. His Majesty's Embassy have been instructed to suggest that a possible method by which the Royal Hellenic Government could co-operate in this matter would be for them to establish a black list of ship owners and agents known to be engaged in the traffic to whom, as a result of their being on this list, all facilities could be refused. His Majesty's Government would be glad to assist the Royal Hellenic Government in drawing up such a list and to consult them as to the best use to be made of it.

His Majesty's Embassy also wish to draw the attention of the Royal Hellenic Government to the legislation recently enacted by the Governor of Gibraltar which enables him to order the detention of suspect vessels. The relevant passage of this ordinance is enclosed as an Annexe to this Note, together with the relevant parts of the law now in force in Palestine. His Majesty's Embassy desire to suggest that this example may serve the Royal Hellenic Government as a useful guide for the preparation of legislation in Greece having the same object.

His Majesty's Embassy avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the Royal Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs the assurance of their highest consideration.

18th June 1947.

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	1			2	

Reference: **FO 371** / **61845**

31

EXTRACT FROM THE GIBRALTAR "SHIPS (DETENTION)
ORDINANCE 1947"

"The Governor if it appears to him that any ship in Gibraltar is being or is intended or likely to be used for the purpose of conveying to Palestine persons whose entry thereto has not been duly authorised under, or would be contrary to any law for the time being in force in Palestine or for the purpose of facilitating such entry, may give directions for the detention of the ship at Gibraltar and the ship may be detained until such time as the Governor on being satisfied that the ship will not be or will cease to be used for any such purpose as aforesaid, shall give directions for its release."

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61845**

38

RELEVANT PROVISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE 1941

(a) "A person abets the commission of an offence if he aids counsels or procures the commission of an offence whether or not the person abetted does in fact commit an offence or is capable in law of committing it."

(b) "Without prejudice to the provisions of this ordinance relating to actual abetment the master owner and agent of a vessel and the commander of an aircraft are all deemed to have abetted the unlawful immigration of any person who is proved to have been aboard the vessel or aircraft in Palestine or the territorial waters thereof whether that person on the vessel or the aircraft came there voluntarily or not unless it is proved (1) that that person did not enter or attempt to enter Palestine and did not intend so to or (2) that the person was a Palestinian citizen or a permanent resident or (3) that all practical precautions had been taken including the examination of his papers to ensure that that person had complied with the requirements of the law or (4) that all practical precautions to prevent the presence of unknown persons on board the vessel or aircraft had been taken and that the accused did not know of the presence of the person on board the vessel or aircraft."

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E

E 5458

39

194/

PALESTINE

24 JUN

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 5458/84/31

Embassy

Orlando

25-4

18, June

24

Correct of 6 June about 'SS. CADIO'

Transmit copy of note to Alliance subj
Foreign Affairs 283 of June 18, re
arrival of 6 June about 'CADIO' also
mentioning in getting some back to Political
as regards Illegal Jewish Immigration Agencies

Last Paper.

5457

References.

5242/84/31.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

Please see E 5242

[Signature]
C.I. & CABLE
24/6

10 June 24

(Action
completed.)

(Index)

[Signature]
24/6

[Signature]
24/6

Next Paper.

5460

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

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Reference:

FO 371/61845

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His Britannic Majesty's Embassy present their compliments to the Royal Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs and have the honour to request their assistance in the following matter.

3. There is strong reason to suspect that all these men are concerned in organising the flow of illegal immigrants into Palestine. The possibility also exists that they may be connected with a terrorist organisation. His Majesty's Embassy are confident that the competent authorities of the Royal Government will be instructed to ensure that these men do not regain their liberty escaping from custody before they are deported from Greece.

5. Since it is not clear what nationality is, in fact, claimed by these men, it is possible that they will apply to the Royal Hellenic Government for travel documents or for some form of laissez-passer with which to continue their journey. His Majesty's Embassy feel that they need scarcely point out that the issue of any such documents to these men would not be consonant with the spirit of co-operation which the Royal Hellenic Government have shown in the prevention of the illegal immigration traffic, and which His Majesty's Government so greatly appreciate.

His Majesty's Embassy avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the Royal Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs the assurance of their highest consideration.

18th June 1947.

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	1			2	

Reference: **FO 371** / **61845**

209

E

22

1547

PALESTINE

E 5460

by JUN

Registry
Number

E 5460/84/31

FROM

G. P. Crossley

No.

Embassy

Dated

Paris

Received
in Registry

L. M. Reich

18 June

24

'President' waspfield.

transmit copy of letter to ed Vane, my
Foreign Affairs, 18 June asking that
'President' Waspfield be detained, and that
no bankers will be granted to her.

Last Paper.

5458

(Minutes.)

JB June 24

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)G. P. Crossley
24/6

(Index.)

M. Reich
24/6

Next Paper.

E 5478

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

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1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO 371

61845

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enter
BRITISH EMBASSY,
PARIS.

43

18th June, 1947.

E 5460

24 JUN

*With the Compliments
of His Majesty's Embassy.*

John Beith Esq.,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1			2	

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61845**

INTERLATE

Paris.

18th June, 1947.

The Prefecture at Marseilles informed our Consulate-General on the 16th June that the local Inscription Maritime had been instructed to prevent the departure of the President Warfield if possible. The Inscription Maritime had, however, warned the Prefecture that the vessel might be leaving in ballast today, 18th June, nominally for Lisbon, and that provided she was still fit for coastwise traffic they could not withhold a clearance certificate.

The Director of Navigation at Port de Boue last Saturday refused a clearance certificate but we are disturbed to learn that nevertheless the vessel moved to Garonte for bunkers. Needless to say we hope most strongly that no bunkers will be granted to her.

I reminded you of the cooperation which we had received from the Italian authorities, who after delaying this vessel for a considerable time had her shadowed when she left Porto Venere by an Italian warship until a British warship was able to take over. We naturally hope that we shall be able to count on the French navy for similar co-operation if the vessel does succeed in sailing.

Perhaps I may once more take the opportunity of stressing the very great importance which we attach to preventing this vessel from participating in the illegal immigration traffic.

**Monsieur Vasse,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
80 Rue de Lille,
Paris.**

P.S. Since the show
W.

FO 371/61845

45

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E

46

E 5478

PALESTINE

1947

24 JUN

Registry
Number

E 5478/84/31

FROM

J Higham

No.

6021/62/47

Dated

23 June

Received
in Registry

24 -

SS 'VILONY' TRINIDAD

Reps of letter E 4991/84/31 forwarding
noted from master of 'Vilony' Trinidad
detention of ship. Also, the ship is detained
under ship (detention) Ordinance 1947
(a lot from few General, power to detain any
suspect ship) suggest that the ship should advise
Bosnia Rican C.G. to inform police that the
ship is not in port to the Governor.

Last Paper.

5-460

References.

5/7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Opt, Bosnia Rican
C.G.

from Bosnia

✓ 2 July

Higham. C.O.

kind. But off.

✓ July 2

C.O. But off.

(Action
completed.)

24/6/47

(Ind. July)

5/8/47

Next Paper.

E 5488

(Minutes.)

The ~~Master~~ ^{owners of the ship} have already made their
protest to the Governor of Gibraltar (see
Gibraltar Tel. no. 176 in E 4376) and
the Bosnia Rican Consul is ~~fully~~ ^{presumably} aware of this.

I suggest, therefore, that we tell the
Bosnia Rican that the Governor has received
this protest and is considering it and
that H.M.G. must await the Governor's
decision. Mr. Higham (C.O.) agrees to this.

I submit draft accordingly

Copy of our letter to Bdn. Evoked
by the Minister Office

[Signature]
(C.S. - C.A.B.H.)
30/6

[Signature]
3/7

See within

Tel to Gibraltar 199 of 28/7.

[Signature]
1/8

G.P.P. Gibraltar at 214
~ B.O. at 85 Saving 11/8

Wt. 24772/717 17855 10/38 F.O.P.

P.T.O.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61845

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In P.P. Gibraltar at 225 Aug 14

[Signature] 20/8

In P.P. 8000

47

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61845**



76021/62/47

E 5478

24 JUN

Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

23rd June, 1947.

Dear Beith,

Will you refer to your letter E.4991/84/31 of the 16th June, forwarding a protest from the Master of the "Colony Trader" against the detention of this ship at Gibraltar.

As you are aware the vessel has been detained at Gibraltar under the Ships (Detention) Ordinance 1947. Under this Ordinance the Governor of Gibraltar has powers to detain any ship suspected of being engaged or intending to engage in the conveyance to Palestine of illegal immigrants. The ship may be detained until such time as the Governor is satisfied that it will not be used for any such purpose.

As it is the Governor who is given the powers under the Ordinance we suggest that, as a first step, you should advise the Costa Rican Consul-General to inform the Master that the latter should submit his points to the Governor.

John D. Higham

(J.D. HIGHAM)

J. G. S. BEITH, ESQ.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO 371 / 61845

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~~Top Secret~~
Secret.
Confidential.
~~Restricted~~
Open. ✓

Costa Rican
Consul General
i ate
London. F 49

Copies to
Colonial Office,
Mr. Hind,
Cabinet Office.

S.W.1.

7 July 1947.

I have the honour to refer to your letter of the 9th June, enclosing a copy of the protest from the master of the S.S. "Colony Trader" against the detention of this vessel at Gibraltar.

2. The S.S. "Colony Trader" has been detained at Gibraltar under the Ships ^{Ordinance} (Detention) ~~Articles~~ 1947, which confers upon the Governor of Gibraltar powers to detain any ship suspected of being engaged, or intending to engage, in the conveyance ⁱⁿ ~~of~~ [^] Palestine [^] illegal immigrants. The ship may be detained until such time as the Governor is satisfied that it will not be used for any such purpose.

3. The owners of this vessel,
The ^{Transamerica} ~~Trans America~~ Compania Navegaciones,
have protested to the Governor of Gibraltar

against/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

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FO 371 61845

50

against this exercise of his powers
and the Company's protest is now receiving the Governor's active consideration.
As soon as the Governor of Gibraltar has come to a decision you will be informed, but, in the meantime, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom cannot, of course, anticipate this decision in any way.

I am etc.

(Sgd.) C.W. Baxter.

11/3

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61845**

E 5478/84/31.

FOREIGN OFFICE,

OUT FILE

S.S.1.

2nd July, 1947.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your letter of the 25th June, enclosing a copy of the protest from the master of the S.S. "Colony Trader" against the detention of this vessel at Gibraltar.

2. The S.S. "Colony Trader" has been detained at Gibraltar under the Ships (Detention) Ordinance 1947, which confers upon the Governor of Gibraltar powers to detain any ship suspected of being engaged or intending to engage, in the conveyance to Palestine of illegal immigrants. The ship may be detained until such time as the Governor is satisfied that it will not be used for any such purpose.

3. The owners of this vessel, The Transamerica Compania Navegaciones, have protested to the Governor of Gibraltar against this exercise of his powers and the Company's protest is now receiving the Governor's active consideration. As soon as the Governor of Gibraltar has come to a decision you will be informed, but, in the meantime, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom cannot, of course, anticipate this decision in any way.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) C.W. Bayten.

John C. Eggers,
Costa Rican Consulate-General,
95, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61845

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APR 1947

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No. 1
Lord
Admiral

523

Ad 3

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H. I. 1

Mini
Fore:

53

crew on shore, I confirm that any costs incurred by you in this connection will be refunded.

It would seem that the case of the master and officers may be rather different from that of the crew. I would be grateful for information as to their intentions in the event of the crew's leaving the ship.

As regards the ship herself, in view of the obvious difficulties of enforcement no guarantees from the present owners concerning her future use can be accepted. I would only be willing to consider her release if the owners were able to prove that they had negotiated for her sale to a reputable firm. Once the crew have left the ship, you may consider that she can be removed from Admiralty berths and left at anchor in the Bay.

Distributed to:-

Distributed to:-

No. 10 Downing Street
Lord President
Admiralty

War Office

" " (M.O. 4.)
" " (M.I. 3.)

Air Ministry

Cabinet Offices

Foreign Office

Ministry of Defence

M.I. 5.

Ministry of Transport

Foreign Office Research Dept.

(Information

Policy Dept.)

- P.S. to Prime Minister.
- Private Secretary.
- Private Secretary.
- First Sea Lord.
- Mr. G.C.B. Dods.
- Private Secretary.
- C.I.G.S.
- Lt.Col. J.G. Atkinson.
- Lt.Col. W. Gore.
- Private Secretary.
- Chief of Air Staff.
- Sir N. Brook.
- Mr. S.E.V. Luke.
- Mr. T.A.G. Charlton.
- Commander Evershed.
- Private Secretary.
- Mr. C.W. Baxter.
- Mr. Beith.
- Private Secretary.
- Sir H. Wilson Smith.
- Defence Registry.
- Mr. T.A. Robertson.
- Mr. Graham.
- Air Commodore K.C. Fuss.
- Mr. Reame.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61845

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SAVED

FROM

TO THE

DATE

NO...

INDEXED

SAVING

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

TO THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT OF.....

DATE... 11th August, 1947.

NO. 85 SAVING. PRIORITY

SECRET

Repeated High Commissioner, Jerusalem No. 178.

"COLONY TRADER".

Your telegram No. 214. Paragraph 5.

I confirm that owners' solicitors may now be informed that I should only be willing to consider release of ship if owners were able to prove that they had negotiated for her sale to a reputable firm.

SECREC

Distributed to: -

No. 10 Downing Street
Lord President
Admiralty

War Office

78 77 {M.O.4.}
 78 77 {M.I.3.}

Air Ministry

Cabinet Offices

Foreign Office

Ministry of Defence

4.1.5.

Ministry of Transport

Foreign Office Research

Foreign Office (Information
Policy Dept.)

P.S. to Prime Minister,
Private Secretary.

First Ses Lord.

Mr. G.C.B. Dodds,
Private Secretary.

C. I. G. S.

Lt. Col. J. G. Atkinson.

Lt. Col. Gore.

Private Secretary.
Chief of Air Staff.

Sir H. Brooks,

Mr. B. B. V. L. L. L.

Mr. T. A. G. Charlton.

Commander Evershed.

Private Secretary.

Mr. C. W. Baxter.

Mr. Beith.

Private Secretary.

Sir R. Wilson Smith,

Defence Registry.

Mr. T. A. Robertson,

Mr. Graham,

Mr. Commodore K.C. Buss.

Mr. Hendon.

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References:

FO 371 61845

INWARD TELEGRAM

INDEXED

55

TO S. OF S. COLONIES HIGH COMMISSIONER PALESTINE
(JERUSALEM PASS)

No. 214 Secret.

Your telegram No. 199 COLONY TRADER.

170. As prospects of direct shipment to New York are most remote repatriation must be effected via United Kingdom and I have accordingly repatriated following officers on conveyance orders to Liverpool by ORDUNA which sailed August charging expenses to His Majesty's Government. Ekmansson Herod Napier Chief Engineer, Kai Egholm Anderson mate, Karl Oscar Lohjonen Second Engineer.

THREE. In order to avoid possible confusion at Liverpool suggest you contact Ministry of Transport and arrange onward passage to New York. Hope to repatriate nine other members of crew by ASCANIA sailing August leaving only persons named in paragraph one.

FOUR. It became necessary to accommodate most of officers and crew ashore and claim for refund of costs will be forwarded in due course.

FIVE Please confirm I may inform owners solicitor of terms under which you would be prepared to consider release of ship as given in last paragraph of your telegram under reference.

Distributed to:-

No.10 Downing Street
Lord President
Admiralty

War Office

14 94 {M. O. 4.}

Air Ministry

Cabinet Offices

Foreign Office

Ministry of Defence

M.I.5.
Ministry of Transport
Foreign Office Research Dept.
" " (Information
Policy Dept.)

P.S. to Prime Minister.
Private Secretary.

First Sea Lord.

Mr. G. C. B. Dodds.

Private Secretary.

C. I. G. S.

Lt. Col. J. G. Atkinson.

Lt. Col. Gore,

Private Secretary.

Chief of Air Staff,

Sir N. Brooke,

Mr. S. E. V. Luke.

Mr. T. A. G. Charlton

Commander Evershed

Private Secrets

MR. C. W. Ba

Mr. Beith.

Private Secretary.

Mr. H. Wilson and

Defence Registry.

Mr. T. A. Ro

47. Graham.

11. Commodore

Mr. Bonnie.

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reference:

FO 371

91845

INWARD TELEGRAM

INDEXED

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

This document must be paraphrased if the communication of its contents to any person outside Government Service is authorised.

Cypher

5478 84 31

FROM GIBRALTAR (Lt. Gen. Sir R. Anderson)

D. 14th August, 1947.

R. 14th " " 15.30 hrs.

No. 225 Secret

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated High Commissioner Palestine, unnumbered.

My telegram No. 214.

COLONY TRADES.

Paragraph 3. Nine other members of the crew refused to sail by ASCANIA, owing to non-payment of wages. Full report follows by savingram.

/Copies

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

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 Lord President
 Admiralty

"
 "

War Office

" "

" " (M.O. 4.)

" " (M.I. 3.)

Air Ministry

" "

Cabinet Offices

" "
 " "

Foreign Office

" "
 " "

" " (Inf. Policy Dept.)

Ministry of Defence

" "
 " "

M.I. 5.

Ministry of Transport

Foreign Office (Research Dept.)

- P.S. to Prime Minister.
- Private Secretary.
- Private Secretary.
- First Sea Lord.
- Mr. G.C.B. Dodds.
- Private Secretary.
- C.I.G.S.
- Lt. Col. M.M. Charteris.
- Lt. Col. W. Gore.
- Private Secretary.
- Chief of Air Staff.
- Sir N. Brook.
- Mr. T.A.G. Charlton.
- Commander Evershed.
- Private Secretary.
- Mr. C.W. Baxter.
- Mr. Beith.
- Mr. Rennie.
- Private Secretary.
- Sir Henry Wilson Smith.
- Defence Registry.
- Mr. T.A. Robertson.
- Mr. W. Graham. M.B.E.
- Air Commodore K.C. Buss.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61845

211

E

E 5488

1947

PALESTINE

25 JUN

58

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 5488/84/31

Consul General
Subordinate

S.I.

18, June

25 -

Illegal Immigrant Ships.
 Consider difficulties in checking up on
 illegal immigrant ships. Suggest engage
 help of Loyds etc. to have daily list
 of ships transmitted to all Embassies from all
 agents. It would allow consulates to consult
 P.M. etc.

Last Paper.

5478

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Capt. Col. T.R. Robertson

(enc) M.I.5

from H. Birch.

✓ June 30

Capt. Dodds

✓ identity

✓ 16 July

✓ 16 July

(Action
completed.)

(Index)

Next Paper.

E 5534

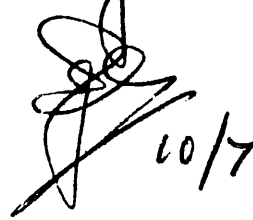
(Minutes.)

Draft of M.I.5

J.D. June 26

Bu. M.I.5 to

M.I.5 are reluctant to approach
 Loyds on this matter and suggest
 we should ask the Admiralty.
 Letter to Mr. Dodds.

 10/7

1	2	3	4	5	6
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59

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E 5488

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25 JUN

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Reference: **FO 371** / **61845**

60

- 2 -

which means, of course, losing the services of one of the Consular staff for at least two days. Even so, it is quite possible that the vessel may call at some other port to embark passengers and escape observation.

We are copying this letter to the Chancery, British Embassy, Paris.

Yours ever,

Marseilles.

[Handwritten signature]

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61845**

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Registry
No.E 5488/84/31

J.G.S.B.

Draft.

Col. T.A. Robert-
son,
M.I. 5.

J.G.S.
(From Mr. Beith)

Copy of letter
Consulate-General,
Marseilles.

OUT FILE

+ OC

30 June, 1947.

Dear Robertson,

I send you herewith a copy of the letter from our Consulate-General at Marseilles which I showed you at the last Official Committee meeting, about the difficulty in securing information regarding the movement of shipping in the South of France.

Would you kindly take this up with Lloyds and if possible arrange for them to act as requested by the Consulate-General in the penultimate paragraph of their letter?

JD June 26

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) John Beith.
(J.G.S. BEITH)

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1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371 / 61845

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OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1

30th. June, 1947.

(E 5488/84/31)

62

Dear Robertson,

I send you herewith a copy of the letter from our Consulate-General at Marseilles which I showed you at the last Official Committee meeting, about the difficulty in securing information regarding the movement of shipping in the South of France.

Would you kindly take this up with Lloyds and if possible arrange for them to act as requested by the Consulate-General in the penultimate paragraph of their letter?

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) John Beith.
(J.G.S. Beith).

Colonel T.A. Robertson,
M.I.5.
War Office.

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Registry
No. 25488/84/31

J.E.C.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
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Draft.

To
P.C.B.
Mr. DODDS

Admiralty

from
J.E.
Mr. CABLE

Copy to:
Mr. Lohm
M.I.5

OUT FILE

63

16/7

Dear Dodds,

I enclose a copy of a letter from our Consul-General in Marseilles about the difficulty experienced by them in securing information of the movement of suspect shipping in the South of France.

M.I.5 are reluctant to take this up the suggestion in the penultimate paragraph of this letter themselves and suggest that ^{an} ~~any~~ approach to Lloyd ~~could~~ could more appropriately be made by the Admiralty.

I should be grateful, therefore, if you would take the necessary action, as the Consul-General's suggestion seems an excellent one.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Lohm.

Yours sincerely
(Sgd.) J.E. Cable

10/7

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OUT FILE 64

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

16th July, 1947.

(E.5488/84/31)

Confidential.

Dear Dodds,

I enclose a copy of a letter from our Consulate-General in Marseilles about the difficulty experienced by them in securing information of the movement of suspect shipping in the South of France.

M.I.5 are reluctant to take up the suggestion in the penultimate paragraph of this letter themselves and suggest that an approach to Lloyds could more appropriately be made by the Admiralty.

I should be grateful, therefore, if you would take the necessary action, as the Consul-General's suggestion seems an excellent one.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Sehen.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) (J.R. Cable)

G.C.B. Dodds, Esq.,
Admiralty.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61845

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212

E

E 5534

PALESTINE

26 JUN

65

Registry
Number

E 5534/84/31

FROM

O'Connor

No.

111111

Dated

46/20/47

Received
in Registry22 June
26

Illegal Jewish Immigration

Refer Athens P/H 252 (E 5457/84/31)

has had a conversation between Mr. Reilly
and Mr. Kennedy who discussed all
outstanding points with regard to Greek
and in the context of Illegal Immigrant
traffic.

Last Paper.

57488

References.

(Minutes.)

Letter to bdr. Envered. See also
E 5614 for final decision on six Jews
ex S.S. CADIO.

[Signature]
28/6

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Sgt. Envered.
Pub Off.

✓ 1st. July

Conf. Higham C.O.

Robertson M.I.S.

✓ 1st. July

(Action
completed.)

[Signature]
5/8/47

(Index)

[Signature]
5/8/47

Next Paper.

5535

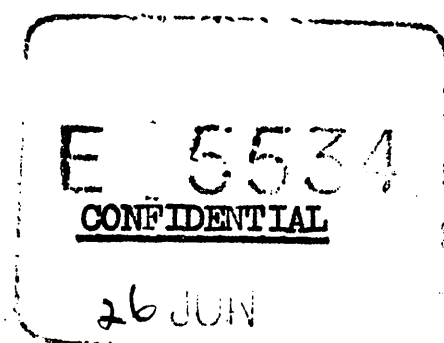
Wt 24772/717 17855 10/38 F.O.P.

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46/206/47



BRITISH EMBASSY,

ATHENS

22nd June, 1947

66

E.

Dear Department,

In accordance with our policy of keeping up pressure on the Greeks on the subject of Jewish illegal immigration, the Counsellor called on M. Kindynis, head of the section concerned at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on 18th June to deliver our Note No. 282 (a copy of which has been sent to you under P/L 252) and to go over verbally all points outstanding between us.

2. As regards our Note No. 282, which suggested to the Greek Government that they should take to themselves powers to take effective action against the organisers of the traffic, M. Kindynis would not be drawn and said that he must discuss the question with the experts before he could give any indication as to whether action might be taken on the lines of our suggestion.

3. Reilly took the opportunity to refer to a recent circular letter originating from the Defenders of Arab Palestine (our 46/199/47 refers). He pointed out that the activities of this organisation provided an additional reason why the Greek Government should prevent illegal immigration activities in Greece as, if the latter continued, there was an obvious possibility of trouble. M. Kindynis took the point and said he was in communication with the Ministry of Public Order on the matter.

4. M. Kindynis handed to Reilly Ministry of Foreign Affairs Note No. 28842 (copy enclosed) which answers the points raised in our Notes Nos. 226 and 252 of 22nd May and 4th June respectively. In answer to a question, M. Kindynis said that the Government's legal advisers had now decided that the Government was not empowered to refuse finally an application for the registration of a vessel from a Greek national. Greek Consulates have therefore been instructed not to grant the registration of the vessels in question without reference to Athens, where any application would be held up by administrative delays. M. Kindynis also promised to send us a copy of the draft law now being submitted to the Chamber and we will try to ensure that we have a look at this law before it is debated.

5. M. Kindynis himself raised the question of the six Jews recently arrested on board the S.S. CADIO (our telegram No. 1243 of 18th June refers). He took a gloomy view at first and was inclined to take the line that the Greek authorities appeared to have exceeded their powers and that all they could do was to let the men continue their journey to France. When Reilly eventually got home the point, which he had apparently overlooked, that they had no French visas his attitude changed and he appeared to agree entirely that it would not be proper for the Greek Government to deport to France men who neither came from that country nor held any visa for it. We are hopeful that we shall be able to get the Greeks to deport these men in a ship sailing to Palestine in the near future. The danger is that there are, as far as we know, no direct sailings and in spite of advance warning being sent to British authorities at the ports of call it is always possible that they may slip ashore at some port before arriving in Palestine.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

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MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES

NOTE VERBALE

L'élaboration du nouveau projet de loi frappant de peines plus sévères les personnes se livrant au transport d'immigrés illicites en Palestine (voir Note du Ministère No. 25432 du 6 mai 1947) ayant été achevée, ce projet sera prochainement soumis au vote de la Chambre.

En ce qui concerne le navire "Archangelos" dont traite la Note de l'Ambassade No. 252 du 4 de ce mois, le Ministère Royal vient d'être informé par le Consulate Royal de Grèce à Marseille que des mesures ont été prises afin que pour le moment il ne puisse quitter ce port.

Athènes, le 16 juin 1947

A L'AMBASSADE DE SA MAJESTE BRITANNIQUE, EN VILLE

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Reference: **FO 371** / **61845**

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3143 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.S.S.

Registry
No. E 5534/84/31

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
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J.E.C.

Draft.

W.
bdr. Evershed, R. N.
Cabinet Office

from
J.E.
Mr. Lable

Copies to:
Mr. Higham C.O.
Col. Robertson
N.I.S

OUT FILE

30

68

+ 2C 14 July

Dear Evershed,
You will remember that
~~the 15th~~ it was agreed that
the Foreign Office should press
the Greek Government to take
more effective action against
Greek ships and ship-owners
suspected of complicity in the
Jewish illegal immigration
traffic.

2. The Greek Govt. have
now promised to take the
following action:

(a) To introduce legislation
providing for severe penalties against
persons engaged in the traffic
and for confiscation of their ships.

(b) To instruct all ^{their} Greek
consulates not to grant Greek
registration to any vessel without
reference to Athens. In the
case of ships on the suspect
list, ^{such} registration would
then be held up by administrative
delays. ~~Then~~ (c)

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2. (c) To consider the possibility of taking action against Greek organizers of illegal immigration.

3. (a) is of doubtful value, as proof will presumably be required, but the draft law is to be ~~submitted~~ shown to the our Embassy before it is debated and ~~we will then be~~ able to ~~form a~~ be this should give us the opportunity to make further suggestions.

4. (b) is already being applied in the case of the "SAN SPIRIDON", "SAN EUSEBIO", "SAN BASILIO" and "SAN DIMILIOS", while the Greek boat the "ARCHANGELOS", according to the Greek Govt., has already been effectively, if temporarily, detained by their boats at Marseilles. There is no mention of this in the Weekly List, unless the Greek boats is merely taking the credit for her financial difficulties against

5. It is, of course, the organizers of the traffic ~~ago~~ that we are particularly anxious for

69

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70

Draft.

for the Greeks to take action
and on this point the
Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs
have declined to commit
themselves. On the whole, however,
and bearing in mind their
cooperation in Greece itself,
the Greek Govt. have responded
fairly well so far.

6. I am sending copies
of this letter to Higham and
Robinson.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) J. E. Cable.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1 2 3 4 5 6

1 2

Reference: **FO 371** / **61845**

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OUT FILE

71

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

1st July, 1947.

(S.5534/64/31)

Confidential.

Dear Evershed,

You will remember that it was agreed that the Foreign Office should press the Greek Government to take more effective action against Greek ships and ship-owners suspected of complicity in the Jewish illegal immigration traffic.

2. The Greek Government have now promised to take the following action:-

(a) To introduce legislation providing for severe penalties against persons engaged in the traffic and for confiscation of their ships.

(b) To instruct all their Consulates not to grant Greek registration to any vessel without reference to Athens. In the case of ships on the suspect list, their registration would then be held up by administrative delays.

(c) To consider the possibility of taking action against Greek organizers of illegal immigration.

3. (a) is of doubtful value, as proof will presumably be required, but the draft law is to be shown to our Embassy before it is debated and this should give us the opportunity to make further suggestions.

4. (b) is already being applied in the case of the "SAN SPIRIDON", "SAN EUSEBIO", "SAN BASILIO" and "SAN DEMILIOS", while the "ARCHANGELLOS", according to the Greek Government, has already been effectively, if temporarily, detained by their Consul at Marseilles.

/There

Commander W. Evershed, R.N.,
Cabinet Office.

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72

6. I am sending copies of this letter to Higham and Robertson.

(Sgd) (J.E. Cable)

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213

E

E 5535

73

1947

PALESTINE

26 JUN

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 5535/84/31

Dorrell Wilson

- Algiers.

74.

17 June

26

Illegal Embarkation, Algiers.

Re: Algiers despatch (4 (E4876/84/31)
 Reports that Jewish camp "Accueil et
 Aide pour le Bénéficiaire" has now been
 emptied and closed down by French authorities.
 Has expressed satisfaction at course of events
 and does not propose to press for further
 details

Last Paper.

5574

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ Mess. M.I.S.
 30 June

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

E 5584

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.I.

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:

FO 371 / 61845

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DW/AMH/B.17

No: 74.

CONFIDENTIAL

British Consulate General,

ALGERIA

5535

17th June 1947.

16. JUN

Sir,

With reference to my Despatch No: 64 of 30th May last regarding attempts at illegal embarkation from Algeria to Palestine, I have the honour to report that the Jewish Recreation Camp near Tenes - "Accueil et Santé par le Camping" - has now been emptied and closed down by the French authorities.

2. Since it is felt that the local French authorities took such action out of goodwill towards us rather than on strictly technical or legal grounds, I have thought it better not to press them for further details, and have contented myself with expressing satisfaction at the outcome of events.

3. A copy of this despatch is being sent to His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, to the Commander in Chief, Mediterranean, and to His Majesty's Consuls General at Rabat and Tunis.

I have the honour to be,
With the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

David L. L. L.

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of
State for Foreign Affairs,
etc., etc., etc.,

Foreign Office, LONDON, S.W. 1.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61845

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214

E

75

E 5584

1947

PALESTINE

27 JUN

Registry
Number

E 5584/84/31.

FROM

6 Lawrence

No.

Tel Aviv

Dated

27.5/28/47

Received
in Registry

27 June

Illegal Immigrant Ship

Copy of letter to Lawrence Harlan, of
Tel Aviv stating that a Jewish Committee
in Harlan is engaged in putting out a vessel
to take Jewish Refugees to Palestine.

Last Paper.

55 287

(Minutes.)

Copy: M.I. 5 (Mr. Schen)

28/6

References.

117

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

of Mess. M.I. 5.
✓ July 3(Action
completed.)

28/6/47

(Index.)

28/6/47

Next Paper.

55-86

32003 F.O.P.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371** / **61845**

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Classification Branch

76

This was adhering to a paper
just entered with us, and
has obviously been so throughout,
as the only point in common
with the paper is their origin
(Madrid).

To you for entry

Murray 26/6
D D

in this Margin.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61845**

BRITISH EMBASSY,

MADRID.

(275/28/47)

17th June, 1947.

E 5584

Dear Chancery,

We have been informed through a friend at the U.S. Embassy, who received his information from a Central American consular officer, that a Jewish Committee in Lisbon is engaged in fitting out a vessel there to take Jewish refugees to Palestine. Our U.S. informant was not able to judge the accuracy of this report, but we thought we should let you have it for what it may be worth.

We are sending a copy of this letter to the Eastern Department.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Lisbon.

CC. Eastern Department, Foreign Office.

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Reference: **FO 371/61845**

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E

E 5580

78

1947

PALESTINE

27 JUN

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 5590/84/31

P.L.B. Dodds

Admiralty

m/c.p. 56408

to Mr. Bell

23 June

27

Delegat Immigrant Ship

Enclose copies of contract between Fokias
Brothers and Williams and Fleming
concerning "Ploverham" Township and
Rennia.

Last Paper.

5586

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

5593

Wt 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

1	2	3	4	5	6

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Minutes

Mr Beik

Curry
79

The Agreement of 29th May between
the Fokai Bros and Williams & Fleming
provides

- (1) That the SS Shen Lee and SS
Louisa shall be transferred to become
the absolute property of the Fokai Bros;
- (2) That the SS Lucia shall be
transferred to & become the absolute
property of Williams and Fleming;
- (3) That Williams and Fleming shall
have the option to be exercised on or
before 3 June 1967 of having all the
shares in the Compania Naviera
Georgiana owned by the Fokai Bros
transferred to them so as to make them
absolute owners of the Company;
- (4) That, if Williams & Fokai
should decide not to exercise their
option to acquire all the shares in
the Company, then they shall
transfer all their shares to the Fokai
Bros so as to make the latter
absolute owners of the Company.

Guiding from Higham - Richardson
letter of 4th June it would appear that
Williams & Fleming decided to exercise their

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open under (3).

We do not know of course to what extent this Agreement has been implemented and it does not help very much to clarify the position from our point of view.

N.V.9. Exam

24 June 1947.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1 2 3 4 5 6

1 2

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82

P. WIGHAM-RICHARDSON & CO. LTD.

Armadores House,

Bury Street,

London, E.C.3.

OUR REF { S/NEG
EXTENSION NO. 14IN REPLYING PLEASE
QUOTE OUR REFERENCE.

4th June, 1947.

BY HANDMessrs. C.W. Kellock & Co. Ltd.,
27/31, St. Mary Axe.
LONDON, E.C.3.

Dear Sirs,

Sloops "SHOREHAM" and "LOWESTOFT"

We refer to the purchase last year of these vessels by our Clients Messrs. G.A. and A.A. Fokias. You will recollect that at the time they were purchased either for these gentlemen or for account of a Panamanian Company to be nominated. Subsequently, as Messrs. Fokias Bros. had taken certain Partners in the venture, Certificates of Purchase at their request were issued in the name of COMPANIA MARITIMA GEOJUNIOR S.A. of PANAMA. As you are aware, however, Fokias Bros. had disputes with their Partners, and pending settlement of these, nothing was done concerning the registration of the vessels under the Panamanian Flag.

In addition to the disputes mentioned above, we gather that Fokias Bros. have recently had additional reasons for avoiding further co-operation with these Partners and have now completely severed their relations with them. They therefore have no further interest in COMPANIA MARITIMA GEOJUNIOR S.A., but have become the sole Owners of the above-mentioned vessels, subject to the coming into effect of the relevant terms of an agreement between them and their former Partners. We enclose for your information a copy of this agreement.

In view of these circumstances and as it is our Clients' intention to place the two vessels concerned under the Panamanian flag, we shall be glad to know whether the Admiralty will require to see any document or letter signed by the COMPANIA MARITIMA GEOJUNIOR S.A. requesting permission for the transfer of the vessels to our Clients. We may add that we have no doubt that such a document or letter can be obtained by our Clients.

Yours faithfully,

P. WIGHAM-RICHARDSON & CO. LTD.

(Signed)

As Agents.

SK/
OMF/

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61845

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THIS AGREEMENT is made on the 29th day of May One thousand nine hundred and forty-seven BETWEEN CAPTAIN GEORGE FOKIAS of 78 Northampton Road Addiscombe Croydon in the County of Surrey and ANGELIS FOKIAS of the same address acting by ALEXANDER SOCRATES SEFERIADES of 15 New Street in the County of London their Attorney under and by virtue of a Power-of-Attorney dated the Twentyeighth day of May One thousand nine hundred and forty-seven (hereinafter referred to as Fokias Brothers) of the one part and WALTER NATHAN WILLIAMS of 78 New Oxford Street in the County of London and EDWARD LASCELLES FLEMING of 108 Dorset House in the said County of London (hereinafter referred to as Williams and Fleming) of the other part W H E R E A S the parties hereto constitute altogether the sole shareholders in Compagnia Maritima Geojunior S.A. being a Company registered according to the law of Panama (hereinafter referred to as the Company) AND WHEREAS the parties hereto have had differences of opinion in connection with the purchase and holding of three ships namely; S.S. Shoreham S.S. Lowestoft and S.S. Lucia by the said Company AND WHEREAS it has been agreed by and between the parties hereto that the said differences shall be resolved in manner hereinafter appearing

NOW IT IS HEREBY AGREED as follows:

1. The two ships namely the S.S. Shoreham and the S.S. Lowestoft shall be transferred to and become the absolute property of Fokias Brothers and all expenses in connection with such two ships which have been incurred up to the date hereof and all future expenses relating thereto shall be borne entirely by the said Fokias Brothers
2. Fokias Brothers will henceforth be responsible in complete exoneration of the Company and Williams and Fleming in connection with any declarations or undertakings given by the Company or Fokias Brothers or anyone on behalf of the Company relating to the said two ships and they will indemnify Williams and Fleming in connection therewith and also in respect of all expenses and liabilities incurred at any time relating thereto.
3. The third ship the S.S. Lucia shall be transferred to and become the absolute property of Williams and Fleming and all expenses in connection with such ship which have been incurred up to the date hereof and all future expenses relating thereto shall be borne entirely by the said Williams and Fleming.
4. Williams and Fleming will henceforth be responsible in complete exoneration of the Company and Fokias Brothers in connection with any declarations or undertakings given by the Company or Williams and Fleming or anyone on behalf of the Company relating to the said third ship and they will indemnify Fokias Brothers in connection therewith and also in respect of all expenses and liabilities incurred at any time relating thereto.
5. Fokias Brothers jointly and severally agree to pay to the said Walter Nathan Williams the sum of Two thousand five hundred pounds as to One thousand five hundred part thereof within two months from the date of this agreement and as to One thousand pounds the remainder thereof within three months from the date of this Agreement.
6. Notwithstanding the provisions of Clause Five hereof in the event of Fokias Brothers selling either the S.S. Shoreham or the S.S. Lowestoft both of them at any time prior to the expiration of the said period of three months then on completion of the sale Fokias Brothers will pay to the said Walter Nathan Williams the whole of the said sum of Two thousand five hundred pounds notwithstanding that on such date the said period of three months shall not have expired.

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7. As security for the payment of the said sum of Two thousand five hundred pounds Fokias Brothers will on the signing hereof give to the said Walter Nathan Williams two promisory notes one for the sum of One thousand five hundred pounds payable on or before two months after the date of this Agreement and another for the said balance of One thousand pounds payable three months after the date of this Agreement each of such promisory notes to contain a provision as stipulated before payable in the event of the sale of one or both of the said ships before the expiration of the said period.

8. As further security for the payment of the said sum of Two thousand five hundred pounds Fokias Brothers will forthwith attend at a meeting to be called by the Company and will vote on a resolution for the granting by the Company to the said Walter Nathan Williams of a charge or mortgage on the S.S. Shoreham which charge or mortgage shall provide as hereinbefore contained that the said moneys owing shall be payable by the said stipulated times or earlier in the event of the sale of one or both of the said ships. The said charge or mortgage shall contain a power entitling the said Walter Nathan Williams to realise his charge by sale or otherwise of the S.S. Shoreham in the event of the said moneys not being paid.

9. All the shares in the said Company or the rights of ownership therein are now held equally by Fokias Brothers and Williams and Fleming. Fokias Brothers are agreeable that Williams and Fleming shall have the option to be exercised on or before the third day of June One thousand nine hundred and forty-seven or having all the shares in the said Company and all rights of ownership thereof transferred to them. In the event of Williams and Fleming exercising this option Fokias Brothers will duly transfer to Williams and Fleming their holding of shares and also all other rights of ownership of shares in the said Company so that thenceforth the Company shall be owned absolutely by Williams and Fleming.

10. In the event of Williams and Fleming deciding by the said date not to retain ownership of the said Company Fokias Brothers will repay to the said Walter Nathan Williams the sum of Two hundred and fifty pounds on payment whereof Williams and Fleming will transfer to Fokias Brothers their shares in the Company and their rights of ownership of shares in the Company so that thenceforth the whole interest in the Company will become vested in Fokias Brothers.

11. It is agreed that in the event of Williams and Fleming deciding not to keep the said Company that Fokias Brothers shall pay the said sum of Two hundred and fifty pounds together with the said sum of One thousand five hundred pounds within two months from the date hereof and in that event the said charge hereinbefore contained and the said promisory notes shall be increased by the said sum of Two hundred and fifty pounds.

12. The parties hereto hereby respectively agree by way of further assurance to attend all meetings of the Company convened for the purpose of implementing the terms of this Agreement and to vote on all resolutions exactly in accordance with the purport and meaning of this Agreement so that the same shall be put into full force and effect and furthermore the parties hereto respectively undertake to sign execute do and/or procure the execution and performance of all documents and things which may be necessary to give effect hereto.

13. All allegations made by one party against the other arising out of the said differences of opinion are hereby unreservedly withdrawn.

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FO 371 / 61845

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- 3 -

IN WITNESS WHEREOF THE SAID GEORGE FOKIAS and ANGELIS FOKIAS by the said
ALEXANDER SOCRATES SEFERIADES their Attorney have hereunto set their
hands and the said WALTER NATHAN WILLIAMS and EDWARD LASCHLIES FLEMING
have respectively hereunto set their hands the day and year first before
written.

SIGNED by the before-named)
ALEXANDER SOCRATES
SEFERIADES as the Attorney
on behalf of the before-
named GEORGE FOKIAS and
ANGELIS FOKIAS in the
presence of:

SIGNED by the said WALTER NATHAN)
WILLIAMS in the presence of:

Walter Williams (Signed)

H. Landy
78 New Oxford Street, W.C.1.

SIGNED by the said EDWARD)
LASCHLIES FLEMING in the
presence of:

E.L. Fleming. (Signed)

H. Landy
78, New Oxford Street, W.C.1.

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1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371 / 61845

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Group *FO*

Class *371*

Piece *61845*

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E 5594 / 84 / 31
E 5595
E 5614

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61845**

1947

E

PALESTINE

E 5691

JUL

86

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 5691/84/31

1 V. Bureau

Rabat

21/19/8

19 June

1 July

Illegal Immigrant Ships
 Rpt. report in "Times" of ship from
 Casablanca, carrying illegal Jewish Immigrants
 to Palestine, asked Casablanca to make some local enquiries
 (enclosed copy of reply) to be kept
 in mind of H.M.G. records on similar cases.

Last Paper.

5-660

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

off. in Bureau
 B.P. Rabat (enc)
 from in Border
 ✓ July 10

Comp. Scherer
 21/10
 10 July 10
 Cont. alger. B.P.
 Tunis. B.P.
 ✓ July 10

(Action
completed.)

(Index)

Next Paper.

E 5741

(Minutes.)
 The "anal" left SETE, on the French
 coast of France, on 6th May. Her ostensible
 destination was Alexandria. She arrived
 at Palermo on the 17th, by which time
 her cargo of Jews was already on board.
 Our suspicion that she may have
 picked up some or all of her illegal
 immigrants from North Africa rests on
 these grounds:

- (a) Her movements between 6th and 17th
 May are unknown, but she would
 have had ample time to call
 at some North African port
- (b) A report from Consul-General
 Algiers (Please see E 4876 and E 5595)
- (c) An article in the Zionist Review
 of 13th June, claiming that she
 picked up her Jews "somewhere
 in North Africa".
- (d) The presence among her passengers
 of Sephardic Jews.

None of this evidence is conclusive.

I submit letter to
 /Mr.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371** / **61845**

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Mr. Brennan accordingly.

copy of basablanco letter to M.I.S.
(Mr. Selun)

Na 4/7
Western Dept. first (~~2-1876~~ ~~in custody~~ ~~and~~ ~~from~~)

[Signature]
(C.E. CABAR)
2/7

In P. P. Extract, Lorient Review 13/6

[Signature]
4/7

87

8/ basablanco letter
O. J. Hester.

M.I.S.

✓ July 11

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1				2	

Reference:

FO 371

61845

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BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL,

RABAT.

41/19/8
Restricted.

19th June 1947.

Dear Hoyer Millar,

I noticed in the copies of "The Times" of May 31st and June 2nd recently received here, reports of a ship carrying illegal Jewish refugees to Palestine, alleged to have started its voyage either from Casablanca, or North Africa.

Though I presumed that as I had had no communication from the Foreign Office in regard to this particular sailing, it must have been shown later that these refugees did not originate from here, I asked the Consul in Casablanca to make some local enquiries. I now enclose a copy of Lumsden's note to me on the subject.

If it is not asking too much, it would be useful to us here in such cases if your Department could let us have your very early comments on such press reports. It would facilitate our local enquiries. It would be useful in this case if you could let us know whence, in effect, this particular shipload did originate.

Yours sincerely

P. D. Brennan

F.R. Hoyer Millar Esq., C.M.G., C.V.O.,
Foreign Office,
London SW1.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	2	2	2

Reference: **FO 371/61845**

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1C please
SECRET

BRITISH CONSULATE

CASABLANCA

104 - S/47
JL/dl

Morocco.

18th June 1947.

Dear Brennan

With reference to your telephone call last week about two articles on illegal immigration into Palestine appearing in the "Times" of 31st May and 2nd June, the Commissaire de Police here has no knowledge of this having originated in Morocco. He says it was quite likely a few Moroccan Jews may have joined the larger party but the ship "Yehuda Halevy" or "Anal", as she was formerly called did not sail from a Moroccan port.

2. He added that the police, however, were on the watch for half a dozen small ships which were reputed to be coasting at various points between Spain, Algiers, Tangier, etc., apparently carrying merchandise but suspected of carrying munitions, possibly for Palestine or possibly for Moroccan acquirers. One such ship - the "Dolphino", came into Fédala on 1st June and was caught unloading contraband coffee. The "Dolphino" belonged to a Gibraltarian whose name Cabail promised to give me but after the incident at Fédala it was sold to a Monaco owner and changed its flag. The "Dolphino" is stated to have been a false funnel for the storing of arms and munitions. I am sorry this information is rather vague but M. Cabail promised that he would let me know more precisely any further information he received, both in connexion with these suspected ship movements and any Zionist activities. The Zionist group, Netter, are endeavouring to collect funds here for remittance to their Algiers centre. It is being done under the guise of support for schools and charitable works and M. Cabail promised to keep me informed. I have given the P.C.O. such information as I have gleaned on this question.

T.V. Brennan Esq., O.B.E.,
His Majesty's Consul General, Rabat.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61845

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Reference:

FO 371 61845

Registry
No. E5691/84/31.

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
~~Open.~~

Draft. Letter

To: Mr. Brennan
H.M. Consulate-
General, Rabat.

From: Mr. Baxter.

Western Dept
first.

Copy to:
Mr. ~~Shearer~~
M.I.5. *Scherr*

H.M. Consul-General
Algiers, Tunis.

4876

3148 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

10 July, 1947.

My dear Brendan,

In your letter No.41/19/8 of the 19th June to Hoyer Millar, you asked whether the Foreign Office had any information confirming newspaper reports that a ship carrying Jewish illegal immigrants had started its voyage from North Africa.

2. The ship referred to was presumably the "Anal" (Yehuda Halevi), which was intercepted in Palestine waters on the 31st May, when she had 399 illegal immigrants on board. We suspect that she may have picked up some or all of her illegal immigrants from North Africa for the following reasons:-

(a) She left Sete on the South Coast of France on the 6th May. We ~~have not heard~~^{know nothing} of her movements between the 6th and 17th May, when she arrived at ~~Polermo~~^{PALERMO} with her passengers on board. This interval would have given her time to pick them up from North Africa.

(b) H.M. Consul-General at Algiers, in his ^{disposable} letter No. 64 of 30th May, reported that a ship named the "Anna Andree" was rumoured to have picked up Jews from North Africa and this ship may actually have been the "Anpal". The name of the "Anna Andree's" Captain was given as "Nicolatoff" while ^{the} "Anpal's" Captain was "Nicolatos".

(c) An article in the Zionist Review of 13th June, of which we enclose a copy.

(d) We have received reports from Palestine that, although her passengers refused to reveal their origin or place of embarkation,

some /

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Reference: **FO 371** **61845**

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some of them appeared to be *SEPHARDIC* Jews.

3. None of this evidence is, of course, conclusive but it does suggest the possibility that this ship may have called at a North African port or else picked up passengers from some deserted spot on the ~~coast~~. If you receive any further reports on this subject, we should be ^{of} grateful to hear/they.

4. I am sending copies of this letter to Tunis and Algiers.

RS
2/7

Yours sincerely
(Sgd.) C.W. Barter.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

10th July, 1947.

OUT FILE

92

(E 5691/84/31)
Confidential.

Dear Brenan,

In your letter No. 41/19/8 of the 19th June to Hoyer Millar, you asked whether the Foreign Office had any information confirming newspaper reports that a ship carrying Jewish illegal immigrants had started its voyage from North Africa.

2. The ship referred to was presumably the "Anal" (Yehuda Halevi), which was intercepted in Palestine waters on the 31st May, when she had 399 illegal immigrants on board. We suspect that she may have picked up some or all of her illegal immigrants from North Africa for the following reasons:-

(a) She left Sète on the South Coast of France on the 6th May. We know nothing of her movements between the 6th and 17th May, when she arrived at Palermo with her passengers on board. This interval would have given her time to pick them up from North Africa.

(b) - His Majesty's Consul-General at Algiers, in his despatch No. 64 of 30th May reported that a ship named the "Anna Andree" was rumoured to have picked up Jews from North Africa and this ship may actually have been the "Anal". The name of the "Anna Andree's" Captain was given as "Nicolatoff" while the "Anal's" Captain was "Nicolatos."

(c) An article in the Zionist Review of 13th June, of which we enclose a copy.

(d) We have received reports from Palestine that, although her passengers refused to reveal their origin or place of embarkation, some of them appeared to be Sephardic Jews.

3. None of this evidence is, of course, conclusive but it does suggest the possibility that this ship may have called at a North African port or else picked up passengers from some deserted spot on the coast. If you receive any further reports on this subject, we should be grateful to hear of them.

4. I am sending copies of this letter to Tunis and Algiers.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) (C.W. Baxter)

T.V. Brenan Esq., O.B.E.,
Rabat.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371/61845

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4C 1616 f.w.
Extract from the ZIONIST REVIEW (A Weekly Survey of Jewish Affairs)

dated Friday, 13th June 1947.

93

"ILLEGALS" FROM NORTH AFRICA.

The arrival and deportation of immigrants has become so much a matter of routine as scarcely to warrant comment. However, especial significance attaches to the "Yehuda Halevi" (ANAL), with its cargo of 400 Jews from somewhere in North Africa. It draws attention to the fact that it is not only the D.P's in Europe who have a valid claim to come to Palestine. The difference in the position of the Jews in the Orient and D.P. camps is one of degree, not of kind, and it is not a great difference at that. North Africa has a long and unhealthy tradition of Jewish persecution, and the Jews have reason to fear the growing Arab nationalism there. The fact that 400 Jews from that territory were prepared to undergo the rigours of an immigrant ship is in itself ample testimony to their faith in a future as a minority among Arabs.

The advantages of living in an Arab country have been further illustrated by the Lebanese elections, which were fully reported and commented upon in the Jewish Press. The papers drew the obvious moral: if such scandalous proceedings could take place in the most enlightened and developed Arab country it can be imagined what abuses would be practised in a unitary Palestine with an Arab majority.

Mention of an Arab majority makes it pertinent to question exactly how great that majority is. For instance, it is by no means clear how large the Yishuv is. The latest Government figure is 608,230. Jewish sources put it around 630,000. Mr Bevin gave the figure as 700,000 and the Arabic paper "al Wahda" claims that it is higher still. The Arab population on the other hand, is generally estimated at roughly 1,200,000. In other words, does the Yishuv comprise the prescribed third of the population or is it substantially larger? If the latter is the case, and the fact can be substantiated, the information should be brought to the notice of the Special Commission. For, if the wishes of the inhabitants of Palestine carry weight, the wishes of the Jewish population will obviously be no negligible factor.

B.P.N/B.3.a.

23.6.47.

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference
FO 371 / 61845

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221

1947

E

PALESTINE

E 5660

30 JUN

94

Registry
Number } E 5660/84/31.
TELEGRAM FROM

No. Mr. G. Houston

Dated Athens
Received
in Registry } 1311
1312A

28, June
80

Jews arrested aboard ship "CHADIA"
R/pw Athens 1248/E 5660/84/31
Owners of "Pomachio" protested to Mr.
Mentall warning that they would not
take deportees. They therefore cancelled their
order and vessel sailed without the Jews
1100 no news of Greek Govt. intentions regarding
the 6 Jews.

Last Paper.

5614

References.

(Print.)

* R.T.O. (How disposed of.)

Ref. Athens 1409.

2 July.

6/ Fitzgerald - B.O.

League M.I.C.

Abortion (B.O.)

July 7.

P.T.O.

(Action
completed.)

(Index)

Next Paper.

E 5691

(Minutes.)

Copies: C.O. (Mr. Fitzgerald)
M.I.S. (Mr. Leager)
W.O. (Mr. May) - Mr. Blenkins.

This is most unfortunate, but there
is nothing we can do for the moment.
The Greek Govt. have agreed to the
principle of deporting these men and
it does not seem worth while to
press them further, until there is a
ship to take them deportees.

We might, however, ask the
Embassy to make sure that the 6 men
are in safe custody and, if not, to
ask the Greek Govt. to detain or
imprison them.

I submit draft telegram accordingly.

11/12/7

(J.E. CABLE)

30/6

1
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5
6

Reference:

FO 371

61845

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*
8) Mr. Fitzgerald, P.C.
Mr. Seager, P.I.S.
Mr. Charteris, W.O.
✓ July 7

1 2 3 4 5 6
 1 2
 Reference: **FO 371** / **61845**

E 5660

Gypher/OTP

30 JUN

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2

E 96

FROM ATHENS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir C. Norton

No. ~~4342-A~~ 1311

28th June, 1947

D. 4.33 p.m. 28th June, 1947

R. 8.10 p.m. 28th June, 1947

aaaaaaa

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

My telegram No. 1298. E

Jews ex Cadix.

On morning of 26th June owners of Corinthia protested to Ministry of Mercantile Marine that they could not agree to take deportee [grp. undec.] and they therefore cancelled their order and vessel sailed the same afternoon without the Jews.

2. I have no news at present of Greek Government's present intentions regarding disposal of these six men.



1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371/61845**

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Registry
No. E5660/84/31
J.E.C.

OUT FILE

97

Despatched 2-25 P M. 3/7

Draft.

ATHENS

Telegram.

No - 1409

Date July 2nd

CYPHER

Southern
first
Ry

Distribution: 30/6

Defectmental 40-2

Copies:

C.O. (Mr. Fitzgerald)

M.I.5 (Mr. Seager)

W.O. (10.4) - Mr. Barker

SECRET

Your telegram NO. 1312 [of 28th June: Jews ex S.S. CADIO]

Please impress upon Greek authorities the importance of keeping these men in safe custody until another ship is available to take them. If necessary, they might be imprisoned for illicit immigration. French authorities in Gibraltar sentenced two escaped Jewish terrorists to 4 months imprisonment on this charge in similar circumstances.

11/7

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference

FO 371/ 61845

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98

Cypher/OTP.

DEPARTMENTAL NO.2.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ATHENS

No. 1409.

D. 2.25 p.m. 3rd July, 1947.

2nd July, 1947.

1997 1998 1999 2000

Secret.

Your telegram No.1312 [of 28th June: Jews ex
S.S. Cadio].

Please impress upon Greek authorities the importance of keeping these men in safe custody until another ship is available to take them. If necessary, they might be imprisoned for illicit immigration. French authorities in Jibuti sentenced two escaped Jewish terrorists to 4 months imprisonment on this charge in similar circumstances.

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

Reference: **FO 371** / **61845**

22.3

1947

E

PALESTINE

E 5741

99

2 JUL

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 5741/84/31

Chancery

Lisbon

21 S 364/25/47

26 June

2 Jul

SS 'KORA'

Refer to letter (E 4955/84/31) I have spoken
to Dickford who is positive that he never gave
assurance about expenses. In any case question
is academic, since it appears that any costs
will have to be paid by owner of 'KORA'.

Last Paper.

5691

References.

(Minutes.)

This is satisfactory. I have told Mr.
Simons and sent him a confirmatory letter.

In P.P. D.P. Simons 10 July.
Howard Keen Ltd

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

D.P. D.P. Simons
Howard Keen Ltd
from Cable
9 July 8.

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

E 5761

32003 F.O.P

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371/61845**

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Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
S.W. 1.

FO 371 61845

J.E.C.

Open.

To —

E 4955

Mr. Lable

E.C.3

4

Foreign Office S.W.1

July 1947

101

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Surot,

With reference to your
letter no. DCS/AR/N of 4th June,
I am writing to confirm our
telephone conversation of 4th JULY about
the costs of action against
"S.S. KORA".

S.S. KORA.

We have now heard from our Embassy in Lisbon, who inform us that the misunderstanding has ~~was~~ been cleared up. It appears that any costs which may arise will have to be paid by the owners of the "KORA" and that the only expenses actually incurred by Norton & Co. amount to some 260 escudos ^{for cables etc.} which their Managing Director has agreed "to take out in the shape of a lunch".

Yours sincerely

(Incl.) 9. E. Cable.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference: **FO 371 61845**

102

(E 5741/84/31)

CONFIDENTIAL.

With reference to your letter No. DPS/AR/N of the 9th June, I am writing to confirm our telephone conversation of the 4th July about the costs of action against "S.S. Kora".

We have now heard from our Embassy in Lisbon, who inform us that the misunderstanding has been cleared up. It appears that any costs which may arise will have to be paid by the owners of the "Kora" and that the only expenses actually incurred by Messrs. Norton and Company amount to some 250 escudos for cables etc., which their Managing Director has agreed "to take out in the shape of a lunch"

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) (J.E. Cable)

D.P. Sinnott, Esq.,
Howard Tenens Limited,
Bevis Marks House,
Bevis Marks,
E.C.3.

1 2 3 4 5 6
 1 2
 1 2
 Reference: **FO 371** **61845**

INDEX
CODES: A.B.C. 6TH EDITION
Box.

HOWARD & TENENS LIMITED.
SHIP BROKERS.

DIRECTORS:
NORMAN H. FOSTER.
R. W. MCFARLANE.
B. M. MCGOWAN.
D. P. SINNOTT.

BEVIS MARKS HOUSE,

BEVIS MARKS.

LONDON, E.C.3.

Ref: DPS/JIP

10th July, 1947.

J.E. Cable, Esq.,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

CONFIDENTIAL:

Dear Mr. Cable,

Many thanks for your letter of the 8th instant and I am pleased to see that the question of expenses appears to have been amicably settled.

Yours sincerely,

St. Louis

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References

FO 371 61845

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group *FO*

Class *371*

Piece *61845*

Following document(s) retained in the

Department of origin under Section 3 (4)

of the Public Records Act, 1958

E 5761 / 84 / 31

E 5772

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61845

296 LAST 225

E

E 5815

104

1947

PALESTINE

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 5815/84/31

P.L. Fleming
M.P.

6th June

27 June

3 July

S.S. Lucia

Severely guarantees given that Lucia
would not be used for illegal immigration,
as to what right M'Leans F.O. had to
ask for a financial guarantee also

Last Paper.

5772

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

D.H. J. H. H.
P.L. Fleming
M.P.
from 1st 1.

✓ Recy - 14

(Action
completed.)

(Ink.)

Next Paper.

E 5839

(Minutes.)

The case of the S.S. LUCIA has been
considered by the Official Committee on
Illegal Immigration, who have submitted
a memorandum to the Ministerial Committee,
asking for endorsement of their decision to
continue to detain the ship by administrative
measures. Please see E 5820/48/G. (FLAGA)

Owing to the absence of the Secretary
of State, no date has yet been fixed
for the meeting of the Ministerial Committee.
I understand from Mr. Evershed of the
Cabinet Office that it will certainly
take place within the next few days.

I suggest, therefore, that the reply to
this letter should await the decision of
the Ministerial Committee and that copies
of it should, in the mean time, be
made and circulated to the members of
the Committee.

[Signature]
(S. E. C. A. B. E.)

I agree. The letter 3/7
has been asked.

Private Secretary

I agree. The meeting has been suggested
for Tuesday 4.30. subject to confirmation
3/7

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Reference:

FO 371

61845

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105'

H. B. Seely 97

I agree to the attached draft.

WVA Exam
9 July 1947.

Private Secretary

In P.P. C.D. Meinti S.A. V. Lake. 8/8.

14/7

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1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference: **FO 371** / **61845**

COMMONS
 27.6.47
 JUL 1947
 E 5815
 2. Eastern Dept 106
 for early draft
 reply please.
 I saw Mr Beith (Eastern Dept. of For. Office)

on 16th inst. and agreed to give a declaration that we would not use the "Lucia" for illegal immigration into Palestine. We gave the written declaration.

On the 23rd inst. Mr Evans, in Mr. Beith's Company requested that I, and my co-directors, should give a financial guarantee (£5000) also.

This I refused to do.

Would you please advise me, under what order, regulation or rule has Mr. Evans the authority to make such a request, & oblige,

Yours sincerely

D. H. Fleming.

P.S. My Co-directors & I wish to register the S.S. 'Lucia' under the Panama flag. We have no intention, & never had, to use the Lucia in illegal immigration into Palestine.

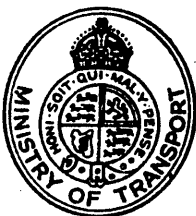
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Reference:

FO 371

61845

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RECEIVED IN C.B.
3 JUL 1947
SENT TO DEPT.
- 3 JUL 1947

BERKELEY SQUARE HOUSE,
W.1.

30 November, 1946.

Dear Fleming

...

Thank you for letting me see the attached letter from Mr. G.F. Sills enclosing copies of his letters of the 18th September, 1945, to me, and of 8th November, 1946, to Sir Edward Appleton.

My predecessor and I have received a number of letters from Mr. Sills about his report on the lighting of motor vehicles and his suggestions have been carefully noted by my technical officers.

As I indicated in answer to a Question in the House on the 14th October last, the technical aspects of the headlight dazzle problem are being thoroughly investigated by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in consultation with the technical officers of my Department. I understand that in the course of that investigation the principles of all previous anti-dazzle devices and of new suggestions which have been made from time to time will be given careful consideration.

Yours Sincerely
Alfred Barnes

Sqn. Leader Edward L. Fleming, K.C., M.P.

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		1				5
					2	
						6

Reference:

FO 371 / 61845

108

My dear Bevin,

re "s.s. Lucia"

Would you please advise me, under what order, regulation or rule has Mr. Evans the authority to make such a request, and oblige.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) E.L. FLEMING.

P.S. My Co-directors and I wish to register the s.s. "Lucia" under the Panama flag. We have no intention, and never had, to use the Lucia in illegal immigration into Palestine.

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Reference: **FO 371** **61845**

Registry
No. E 5815/84/31

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

J.S.C.
Draft.

Squadron-Leader
E. L. Fleming,
K.C., M.P.

from

Mr. Bevin.

Private Secretary
first.

Mr. Evans and
Private Secretary
agree to revised
draft.

OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

14 July, 1947.

Dear Fleming,

In your letter of the 27th June about the s.s. "Lucia", you asked by what authority Mr. Evans of the Foreign Office had requested you to give a financial guarantee that this vessel should not be used for the purpose of illegal immigration into Palestine.

I understand that when you called at the Foreign Office on the 16th June, you mentioned that you had already given an undertaking to the Admiralty to this effect, and stated that you were willing to give a further guarantee. Your proposal was accepted and you accordingly wrote a letter, No. HL/FC of the 17th June, in which you and your co-directors undertook "that the ship known as the s.s. 'Lucia', owned by our company, will only be used for regular authorised trade, for passengers and freight, and will not in any way be used for illegal immigration to Palestine". At your meeting with Mr. Evans and Mr. Beith of the 23rd June, the former explained that the Departments concerned would prefer a guarantee in the form of a bond to the undertaking given by your letter. This suggestion was, I understand, rejected by you.

You will see, therefore, that Mr. Evans was merely making a tentative suggestion which you were, of course, completely free to accept or reject. As you have now rejected it, I feel

/ that

/ Mr. Lewis

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371/61845

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that the matter is at an end, but I should like to emphasise that it was no more than a suggested amendment to your original proposal, and in no sense a demand or an official request, as you suggest.

Mr. Evans was, in fact, merely making a suggestion and not, as you suggest, an official request. You were free to accept or reject that suggestion and, as you have now rejected it, the matter is now closed.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) Ernest Bevin.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

[illegible]

OUT FILE

14 Dec. 9 July, 1945.

In your letter of the 27th June about the s.s. "Lucia", you asked by what authority Mr. Evans of the Foreign Office had requested you to give a financial guarantee that this vessel should not be used for the purpose of illegal immigration into Palestine.

I understand that when you called at the Foreign Office on the 16th June, you mentioned that you had already given an undertaking to the Admiralty to this effect, and stated that you were willing to give a further guarantee. Your proposal was accepted and you accordingly wrote a letter, No. HL/PC of the 17th June, in which you and your co-directors undertook "that the ship known as the s.s. 'Lucia', owned by our company, will only be used for regular authorised trade, for passengers and freight, and will not in any way be used for "illegal immigration to Palestine". At your meeting with Mr. Evans and Mr. Beith of the 23rd June, the former explained that the departments concerned would prefer a guarantee in the form of a bond to the undertaking given by your letter. This suggestion was, I understand, rejected by you.

Mr. Evans was, in fact, merely making a suggestion and not, as you suggest, an official request. You were free to accept or reject that suggestion and, as you have now rejected it, the matter is now closed.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) Ernest Bevin.

E. L. Fleming, K.C., M.P.,

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		1		2	

Reference: **FO 371** **61845**

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Reference: **FO 371/61845**

In this connection a British warship is standing by in Southern France to shadow the PRESIDENT WARFIELD if she should leave there and pick up immigrants off the Italian coast. If this should happen it would give time for the Official Committee to obtain the sanction of the Ministerial Committee and for a strong approach to be made to the Italians while PRESIDENT WARFIELD was still on passage to Palestine.

The Official Committee are also exploring the possibilities of accepting a shipload of immigrants back in the British zone of Austria so that, failing Italian agreement to accept them back on Italian soil, we could at least insist on transit facilities for them, and thus achieve the object of returning the immigrants to Europe.

Jews in Palestine wishing to return to Europe.

At the last meeting of the Committee it was reported that there was a substantial number of Jews in Palestine who wished to return to Europe, and the Secretary of State for the Colonies was asked to make enquiries about this. You may perhaps wish to ask him if he has any report to make.

$\int E \cdot v / \omega k e$

7th July, 1947.

114

FOREIGN SECRETARY

Illegal Immigration Committee

The following have been invited to attend:-

Minister of Defence
Secretary of State for the Colonies
First Lord of the Admiralty
Secretary of State for War
Minister of Transport
Mr. J.M. Martin (who has replaced Sir Thomas Lloyd
as Chairman of the Official Committee)

2. Before turning to the items on the Agenda, I suggest you may wish to ask Mr. Martin for a brief oral report of the situation with regard to illegal immigration, since the Official Committee have not on this occasion submitted a formal Progress Report.

3. The first item for consideration is a memorandum by the Official Committee headed "S.S. LUCIA" (GEN. 180/8). In this memorandum the Official Committee report that they have been approached by a Squadron Leader Fleming, K.C. (Conservative Member of Parliament for the Withington Division of Manchester), on account of the administrative measures taken to prevent S.S. LUCIA, of which he is a part owner, from leaving Plymouth.

I understand that Squadron Leader Fleming has also written to you on this subject.

The Official Committee ask for confirmation of their decision that Squadron Leader Fleming's assurances as to the future use of S.S. LUCIA cannot be accepted, and that the ship should be detained in harbour by all possible means. Their reasons for this decision are given fully on the last page of the paper.

4. The only other item for consideration is the Return of Illegal Immigrants to the Country of Embarkation. There are two papers on this subject before the Committee:-

(1) A memorandum by the First Lord of the Admiralty and the Minister of Transport (GEN. 180/7), on the practical aspects of such an operation. Since the memorandum reports that there are no practical difficulties in the return of a shipload of immigrants from Palestine, I suggest you will wish only to take note of this paper, though you may perhaps wish to ask the Secretary of State for War to confirm that the Army can provide guards on board the transports as stated in paragraph 8.

(11) A memorandum by the Official Committee (GEN. 180/9) on the political aspects of this subject. The Official Committee discard, as practical possibilities, the suggestion that we could disembark a shipload of immigrants on Italian soil by force or by stealth contrary to the wishes of the Italians. They believe that an approach to the Italians now would meet with a refusal, and they conclude that the best course will be, when we have established beyond a doubt that a shipload has been embarked from Italian soil, for us to confront the Italians with the fact, and press them most strongly to take the immigrants back.

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Reference: **FO 371** / 61845

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115

In this connection a British warship is standing by in Southern France to shadow the PRESIDENT WARFIELD if she should leave there and pick up immigrants off the Italian coast. If this should happen it would give time for the Official Committee to obtain the sanction of the Ministerial Committee and for a strong approach to be made to the Italians while PRESIDENT WARFIELD was still on passage to Palestine.

The Official Committee are also exploring the possibilities of accepting a shipload of immigrants back in the British zone of Austria so that, failing Italian agreement to accept them back on Italian soil, we could at least insist on transit facilities for them, and thus achieve the object of returning the immigrants to Europe.

Jews in Palestine wishing to return to Europe.

At the last meeting of the Committee it was reported that there was a substantial number of Jews in Palestine who wished to return to Europe, and the Secretary of State for the Colonies was asked to make enquiries about this. You may perhaps wish to ask him if he has any report to make.

Sgd. S. E. V. LUKE.

7th July, 1947.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	1	1	1	1

Reference: **FO 371** / **61845**

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237

E

E 5839

116

1947

PALESTINE

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 5839/84/31

R. M. Hadom

Washington

84/110/47

27 June

4 July.

Completed by Thomas Lombardi and Teaga.
 L/R Ellison letter (E 5841/84/31) does
 not agree with Ellison's point of view,
 suggests solution through experienced
 would be to "close the incident" by
 deep silence.

Last Paper.

5-811-

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

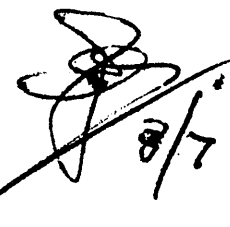
(Index.)

Next Paper.

5841

(Minutes.)

Please see E 5841



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6

Reference:

FO 371

61845

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E 5839

BRITISH EMBASSY.

WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

June 27th, 1947.

PERSONAL

Ref.: 84/110/47

My dear Wilson-Young,

I am far from wishing to intrude or to prolong the exchange of views on the Icaza case; but I have been consulted about Ellison's letter to you of 11th June (41/176/47), so am sending you my views with Allen's consent.

2. The whole of Ellison's case rests, as I see it, upon the somewhat doubtful assumption that we libelled an innocent firm. So far there is no proof of this statement; and a good deal of excellent information, (which we cannot use) to incriminate those to whom it is proposed that we shall apologise!

3. With an experience of Latino character which you share I venture to say that we should be the laughing-stock of Panama if Messrs. Lombardi and Icaza were able privately to boast to their friends that they had compelled us to apologise for saying what was, in point of fact, perfectly true! And who will say, in view of the source of our information, that it is not?

4. The Panamanian Government, you will notice, have not said a word to us on Messrs. Lombardi and Icaza's behalf. May we not then wash our hands of the complaint as they seem to have done?

5. Meanwhile I am prepared to sustain that, as good lawyers, Messrs. Lombardi and Icaza will put business before hurt feelings, if indeed they have any; and that we shall not lose much in the long run by refusing to take an unjustified risk of making ourselves look ridiculous.

In order not to hurt Ellison's feelings I am not sending him a copy of this letter; but suggest that, if you merely "close the incident" by deep silence.

you agree,

Yours ever,

R.H.Hadow

I. Wilson-Young, Esq.,
North American Dept.,
Foreign Office.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	1	1	1	1

Reference: FO 371 / 61845

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238

E

E 5841

118

PALESTINE

4 JUL

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 5841/84/31

Legation

Punaga,

14/176/47

11 June
14 July

Last Paper.

17839

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

(Index)

Next Paper

E 5895

transmitted by Messrs. Lombardi and Reaga.

Refer to letter of May 31 (E 4821/84/31)
regarding the Foreign Affairs at
Punaga. The following is the letter to Reaga.Suggest only answer now given in the apology
fully, concisely, and in writing.

(Minutes.)

This letter and that from Mr. Hadlow
in E 5839 have crossed Mr. Baxter's letter
in E 4821. Mr. Hadlow does not want to
apologize at all and Mr. Ellison wants
the apology to come from Washington.
Mr. Baxter's letter, however, asked Mr.
Ellison to "convey an oral expression
of regret." I think we should await
reactions to this letter, before replying
to either of these letters and hope that
the incident may be "closed in deep silence"
as Mr. Hadlow suggests.

8/9/7
N.A. Dept.

[Signature]
C.T.E. (ABLE)
8/7

#13 7/7

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371/61845

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41/176/47

June 11th 1947

AN 2170

24 JUN 1947

Dear Wilson-Young,

With reference to Allen's letter of May 31st about Messrs. Lombardi and Icaza's complaint, I naturally agree that it was very, very naughty of the Panamanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to show Balfour's letter to Icaza. But even if we protested to them (which would only exacerbate feelings), it would not help matters in the least.

Surely, when A writes a libellous statement about B, and B (by whatever means) comes to learn of it, there are only two courses open to A:-

- (1) to apologize fully, unreservedly, and in writing;
- (2) to produce evidence to prove the statement true.

In the present case the second course is precluded by the secret nature of the evidence (if any); the first course is the only decent one we can take.

Nor can I agree that the transmission of an apology through us would be either fitting or wise. Washington can apologize without affecting their own affairs in any way; we have to live with these people, and are particularly anxious therefore not to be drawn into the business.

As for "moral responsibility", is a solicitor morally responsible because one of his clients, without his knowledge, turns out to be a burglar?

What makes matters worse is the long delay in replying to Icaza's letter of March 13th. This multiplies the original offence, and I fear is the best possible way of "encouraging" the firm to protect their clients' interest, right or wrong, since they no longer have any reason to be friendly or helpful to us.

Yours ever,

I.A.D. Wilson-Young, Esq.,
North American Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

E 5841

4 JUL

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1			2	

References

FO 371 61845

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239

E

E 5895

120

1947

PALESTINE

7 JUL

Registry
Number

E 5895/84/31

FROM

Clarendon

No.

Washington

Dated

9/65/1/47

Received
in Registry

30 June

7 July

Illegal Immigrant Ships

Refer Washington letter 9/65/1/47 of June 6
(E 5068/84/21) transmit further list of 7 such
applications. Also give latest information
about ships mentioned in ref.

Last Paper.

5841

References.

(Minutes.)

copy M. 5 } usual names
C.V.N.A. Deft.
22/5/7

7/7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ Robertson M.C.
Wigham C.O.

✓ July 12

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

E 5958

Wt 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.I.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371** / **61845**

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applications have been discussed with the Shipping Attache and with the local Security Service Representative, who has reported on them to his Head Office:

1. The m/v BUCCANEER, 400 tons gross, 312 tons net. The vessel will be used to carry general cargo between the United States and Central America and the West Indies. Upon receipt of satisfactory assurances from this ship's owner, the Buccaneer Line of Florida, we have given our approval to the application.

2. S.S. SANTA MARIA
S.S. SANTA ROSA
Tonnage of the former 691 tons gross and 273 tons net; and of the latter 855 gross and 386 net. The owners of these ships, the Caribbean Fruit & Steamship Company of Jacksonville, Florida, have a good reputation. They have explained the fruit importing business for which the ships are required and given us satisfactory assurances. Approval has therefore been given.

Yours ever,

J. H.
CHANCERY

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371 / 61845**

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241

1947

E

PALESTINE

E 5980

/23

9 JUL

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 5980/84/31

constant and
constant

11/11/48

4 10/11

9

I.S. 'KORA'

transmission test of table sent in reply to Mr.
Gaspardinas. stating repairs to KORTH will
be completed, also reason
severe in maintenance.

Last Paper.

5-95-8

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

(Index)

Next Paper.

5-982.

(Minutes.)

Please see E 5772 and action
thereon

[Signature]
10/7

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:

FO 371 / 61845

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CONSTANT & CONSTANT.

SOLICITORS.

HARVEY L. CONSTANT. R.A. PARKIN.

TELEGRAMS: TWOCONSTS, STOCK, LONDON.

TELEPHONES: AVENUE 1191.
(PRIVATE BRANCH EXCHANGE)

AB/KB.

BALTIC EXCHANGE CHAMBERS.

24 ST. MARY AXE.

LONDON, E.C.3.

4th July, 1947.

Sir,

Re:- "K O R A"

Referring to our telephone conversation with Mr. Cable, we now enclose herewith, for your file, copy text of the cable sent in reply to Mr. Gasparinatos' cable, which, translated, reads as follows :-

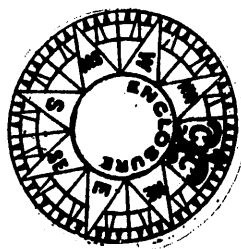
"Reference Kora my letters 13 and 26 remain unanswered Stop Seizure vexatious and libellous Norton has not lifted up to date Stop Repairs Kora will shortly be completed please cable reason seizure is maintained"

The cable despatched was addressed to this gentleman at Cairo.

We have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
Eastern Section,
Whitehall,
LONDON, S.W.1.



1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371 / 61845**

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125

KORA YOURS THIRTEENTH REPLIED TWENTY-FOURTH YOURS
TWENTY-SIXTH JUST RECEIVED S T O P REGRET UNABLE AT
PRESENT TAKE STEPS ARRANGE RELEASE ARREST OR REMIT
MONIES FROM HERE S T O P FOR YOUR PRIVATE GUIDANCE
OUR AUTHORITIES SUSPECT KORA CONTEMPLATING VOYAGE
IMMIGRANTS PALESTINE BUT GROUNDS THEIR SUSPICION
UNDISCOVERABLE S T O P WHILST FEELING CERTAIN EVENTS
WILL PROVE SUSPICION WHOLLY UNJUSTIFIED BELIEVE YOUR
INTERESTS BEST SERVED BY SENDING US IMMEDIATELY
CONVINCING EVIDENCE KORA ENGAGED ONLY NORMAL BUSINESS
S T O P CABLE.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1				2	

Reference:

FO 371 / 61845

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242

E

E 5982

126

1947

PALESTINE

9 JUL

Registry
Number

E5982/84/31.

FROM

Constant and
Constant

No.

Dated

18/58

Received
in Registry1 July
9

SS 'KORA'

transmit copy of correspondence between
themselves and Advocate David S. Reill of
Genoa, on subject of detaining ship 'KORA'
only for observations on means of frustrating
any attempt on part of master to sail
without delivery of ship papers.

Last Paper.

1-980

References.

11/7.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Mr. Hickman, P.O.
Col. Robertson, P.I.S.
Com. Evershed, Off.
✓ July 15

(Action
completed)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

1-983

(Minutes.)

copy: app. }
M.S. }
bureau office } usual
names

9/7

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:

FO 371/61845

CONSTANT & CONSTANT.

SOLICITORS.

HARVEY L. CONSTANT. R. A. PARKIN.

TELEGRAMS: TWOCONSTS, STOCK, LONDON.

TELEPHONES: AVENUE 1191.

(PRIVATE BRANCH EXCHANGE)

AB/GB.

E 5982

1st July, 1947.

For attention of Mr. Cable.

Sir,

re: s.s. "Kora"

We enclose herewith for your guidance copies of exchange of correspondence between ourselves and Avvocato David S. Neill of Genoa in connection with this case.

We hope that some means will be found of frustrating any attempt on the part of the owner to get his vessel away without waiting for re-delivery of the ship's papers. On that subject it appears that the Consul General is in communication with you.

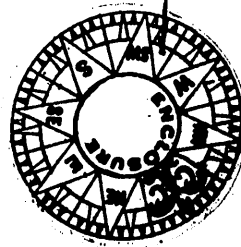
Perhaps you will be good enough to let us know whether you have any observations on the subject which we can pass on to our Clients.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
Eastern Department,
Whitehall, S.W.1.



64

E 127

BALTIC EXCHANGE CHAMBERS,

24, ST. MARY AXE,

LONDON, E.C.3.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO 371 / 61845

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128

AIR MAIL.

AB/GB.

1st July, 1947.

Dear Sir,

Re: "Kora"

We have to-day received and thank you for your letter of the 28th June and note the present position in this matter, and also that you are in possession of the respective Powers of Attorney from Messrs. Norton & Co. of Lisbon and Agence Maritime De Keyser Thornton, and that these are in order.

If as we understand it it is the ordinary practice of the Harbour Master to hold the vessels papers, we should like to avoid our Clients incurring watching expenses, and we can only hope that the Consul General will be able to inform you after conferring with the authorities in London that they are willing to bear the expense of putting a watchman on board. On the other hand, if there is a danger of the vessel leaving without the provision of bail, we should not like our Clients to risk losing their security for the sake of saving the watching expenses, which we assume in any event will be recoverable as Costs.

You might kindly guide us on this point.

Yours faithfully,

David S. Neill, Esq.,
Advocate,
Via. Brigata Bisagno 6-15,
GENOVA.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	1	1	1	1

Reference:

FO 371 / 61845

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86

AB:GB

Copy of letter from David S. Neill, Genova.

dated 28th June, 1947.

Messrs. Constant & Constant,
24, St. Mary Axe,
E. C. 3.

Dear Sirs,

"KORA"

Answering your letter of the 24th inst. I have to inform you that I have now received from Messrs. Norton & Co. and Agence Maritime De Keyser Thornton their respective Powers of Attorney which are in order.

There is nothing new so far regarding this vessel. The owner did not turn up, nor have I heard anything from the Agents regarding the furnishing of bail.

The British Consulate recently enquired whether there was a watchman on board. I answered that the Italian law on the arrest of vessels does not contemplate the appointment of a watchman. The notification of the arrest unto the Harbour Authorities is considered sufficient to prevent the sailing of the vessel, seeing that the ship's papers will remain in the hands of the Harbour Master until the vessel is released from the arrest.

The Consulate, however, appear to think that the owner of the "Kora" would not hesitate to cause the ship to sail even without her papers, if he saw a good chance of doing so; and that it would therefore be advisable to have some watch kept over her. I understand that they intended taking up the matter in London and that they would be communicating with me further on the point, particularly in view of the expense that would be entailed.

Yours faithfully,

S. Neill.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371 / 61845**

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1947

E

PALESTINE

E 5983

9 JUL

130

**Registry
Number** }

FROM

No.

Dated

*Received
in Registry*

E 5-983/84/31

Enclosure

ack ew

273

6 July

9

6 Lines accepted on P.P. "Radio"

Refers to G/ 1409 (E 5660/84/31) Transmits
copy of note to 'My' Foreign Affairs No 311.
of July 5, Reporting request that Jews be
kept in safe custody until they are deported
since the 'Corinthia' left without them.

Last Paper.

1-982

References.

(Minutes.)

Now see £ 6011

9/7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

1-986

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

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References:

FO 371 61845

No. 273
16/247/47

E 131

HIS Majesty's C. d'A. at Athens
presents his compliments to H.M.P.S. of S. for F.A.
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

British...Embassy...

E 5983

.....Athens.....

5th July 1947

Reference to previous correspondence:

E 5660/14/31

Foreign Office telegram No.1409 of July 5th
Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Note to R.H.M.F.A. No.311 of 5th July.	Illegal Jewish immigration

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	2	2	2

Reference: FO 371 / 61845

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BRITISH EMBASSY,
ATHENS

No. 511
26/5/47

His Britannic Majesty's Embassy present their compliments to the Royal Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs and have the honour to refer to their Note No. 283 of the 18th June in which they requested the Ministry to do everything possible to arrange for the return to Palestine of the six Jews who had been arrested on board the s.s. CADIZ on 5th June.

His Majesty's Embassy understand that, although it was the intention of the Royal Hellenic Government to deport all the six men in question under escort in the s.s. CORINTHIA which left Piraeus on the 26th June, this did not in fact take place. His Majesty's Embassy have therefore been instructed by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to urge upon the Royal Government the importance of keeping these individuals in safe custody pending their deportation in the next ship available to take them.

His Majesty's Embassy desire to reiterate their request that, when these men are eventually embarked, the Royal Government will make every endeavour to ensure their safe custody on board until they can be delivered to the Palestinian authorities.

His Majesty's Embassy avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the Royal Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs the assurance of their highest consideration.

5th July, 1947

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371 / 61845

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2446

1947.

E

PALESTINE

E 5986

9 JUL.

133

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E5986/84/31

T Grenway
Legation

Panama

L. G. Nelson

3 July

9

Illegal Immigrant Ships

Has received enquiry from Pacific Engineering
Corporation Ltd, offering to ship for sale
what "may be of interest" to shipping
people in Panama.As ships are suitable for Illegal Immigrant
traffic. Also guidance before taking action.

Last Paper.

1-983

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Tel. Panama.

80

July 11.

8/ Telera. M.I.S.

July 14

(Action
completed.)

(Index)

Next Paper.

6011

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

(Minutes.) at one time

The "SALAMIS" ~~is already on the suspect~~
list. ~~For details see E5829/40/6 - E 1/48/6.~~I have asked M.I.S. to let us have their
comments on this and the other ships.M.I.S. now tell me that they know
nothing of the remaining ships, except that
the SS. MANHASSET is now a wreck, and
that they no longer suspect the SALAMIS.
They have no objection to the proposed
transfer.

Draft telegram to PANAMA accordingly.

J. E. Cable
(J.E. CABLE)
10/7

N.A. Deft first

10/7

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371/61845

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5/260(32)47

RESTRICTED

BRITISH LEGATION,
PANAMA.

July 3rd 1947.

E 5986

9 JUL

Dear Sir,

We have received an enquiry from a firm named the Pacific Engineering Corporation Ltd., of White House, 111 New Street, Birmingham 2., offering certain ships for sale which they think "may be of interest to the shipping people in Panama".

These are a motor tanker, PINARD: the s.s. SALAMIS (ex SALVADOR) now at Marseilles; the s.s. DRONING MAUD (now at Copenhagen); and the s.s. MANHASSET (now at New York).

It occurs to me that these ships might be eminently suitable for illegal immigration into Palestine, and accordingly I am taking no action on the firm's letter until I hear from you, that we may, or may not, go ahead. Will you send me a brief telegram as soon as you have considered this letter?

Yours ever,

John S. Young

I.A.D. Wilson-Young, Esq.,
North American Dept.,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	3	4	5

Reference: **FO 371 / 61845**

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Registry

No. E 5986/84/31

13/7 135

Despatched

11250 M.

PANAMA

RESTRICTED

Telegram.

No. - 80

Date July 11/16-2011

CYPHER

~~CODE R~~

N.A. DEPT

(M.I. 5 concn)

Distribution:

Departmental No. 1

body:

Mr. Schen

MF-5

your letter no 5/260/32/47 ^{of 3rd July} ~~to~~

WILSON-YOUNG.

~~There is no objection to the proposed sale of ships mentioned in your letter under reference, but~~

21. There are no grounds for suspecting the ships mentioned in your letter under reference and ^{we} do not think that opposition to their sale would be justified.

be justified.
2. For your information, however,
S.S. MANHASSET is reported to be
a wreck.

✓ 11/7

[illegible]

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

E 5986/84/31

OUT FILE

136

Cypher/CTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PANAMA

No. 80

July 11th, 1947.

D. 11.25 a.m. July 13th, 1947.

SSSSS

RESTRICTED

Your letter No. 5/260/32/47 of July 3rd to Wilson-Young.

There are no grounds for suspecting the ships mentioned in your letter under reference and we do not think that opposition to their sale would be justified.

2. For your information, however, s.s. Manhasset is reported to be a wreck.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1			2	

Reference: **FO 371 / 61845**

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245

1947

E

PALESTINE

E 6011

9 JUL

137

Registry
Number

E 6011/84/31.

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Mr. Reilly
Athens

Dated

Received
in Registry

1353

7 July

9 -

Teas Arrived aboard 18 'AD10'

R/As Athens 6/13/11

Notes: The Teas were departed 7 July
in 'AD10' transport. Vessel follows same
route as 'Patriarch' and is due 11/10/47
July 13.

Last Paper.

1-986

References.

(Minutes.)

See E 5521/482/6 and Telegram
sent thereon.Copies: M.F.S. } usual names
C.B.
W.B.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ Fitzgerald, C.O.
Reaper 14.1.51
Waters, W.O.
✓ July 10(Action
completed)

E 6011/7

(Index.)

E 6011/7

Next Paper.

E 606 1

32008 F.O.P.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371/61845

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138

9

JUL

E

These six men were deported today in Cadie herself. Vessel follows same route as Corinthia and is due Haifa July 15th.

A circular postmark from the year 1847. The text "JUL" is at the top and "1847" is at the bottom. The numbers 1 through 12 are arranged in a circle, with the number 9 on the left. In the center is a clock face with two hands pointing to approximately 10:10.

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1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

Reference: **FO 371** **61845**

246

E

E 6061

139

PALESTINE

10 JUL

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E6061/84/21.

constant
and constant

AR/KR

7 Jul/1967

10

SS 'KORA'

duplicate copy of letter from Liverpool
will be given with copy of reply.
re the SS 'KORA'

Last Paper.

6011

(Minutes.)

16/7

References.

11/7.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ Mr. Higham, C.O.

Col. Robertson M.I.

Comd. Evershed Lab.

✓ 15 July

(Action
completed.)

(Index)

Next Paper.

6062

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:

FO

371

61845

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CONSTANT & CONSTANT.

SOLICITORS.

HARVEY L. CONSTANT. R. A. PARKIN.

TELEGRAMS: TWOCONSTS, STOCK, LONDON.

TELEPHONES: AVENUE 1191.

(PRIVATE BRANCH EXCHANGE)

AB/KB.

Sir,

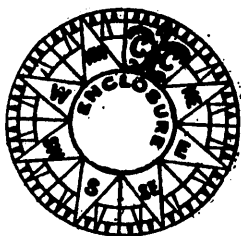
Re:- s/s "KORA"

We enclose, for your information, copy of
a letter we have received from Avvocato Neill,
together with copy of our reply.

We have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
Eastern Division,
Whitehall,
LONDON, S.W.1.



BALTIC EXCHANGE CHAMBERS.

24, ST. MARY AXE.

LONDON, E.C.3.

7th July, 1947.

For the attention of
Mr. Cable.

E 606

10 JUL

W. H. H.

Copies:

C.O.

M.I.S.

behind office

*usual
names*

87

E Enter E - Palestine

140

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371** / **61845**

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1041
- C O P Y -

DAVID S. NEILL,
Viala Brigato,
Bisagno 8-15,
GENOA.

2nd July, 1947.

Dear Sirs,

s.s. "KORA".

I am in receipt of your two letters dated respectively 24th and 27th June, the first enclosing the Power of Attorney of Agence Maritime de Keyser Thornton of Antwerp, the cost of which I note was Belgian Fcs.854.70; the second enclosing a further claim against the above vessel by Messrs. Julio Dias & Cardoso, Lda. of Lisbon, in respect of which I shall, in due course, apply for another order of arrest. The Power of Attorney of Messrs. Julio Dias & Cardoso Lda. is in order.

Yesterday, the agents of the "Kora", namely Messrs. Castaldi & Co., called me up to inform that one of the Owners had arrived in Genoa and stated that he had already attended to payment of the various claims in London, and they enquired from me whether I had been notified of the fact from London. I answered that I had heard nothing and received no instructions.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) D. NEILL.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1			2	

Reference: **FO 371 / 61845**

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88

- C O P Y -

CONSTANT & CONSTANT.

24, St. Mary Axe,
London, E.C.3.

AIRMAIL.

AB/KB.

7th July, 1947.

Dear Sir,

Re:- "K O R A"

We thank you for your letter of the 2nd inst., from which we are glad to note that the various documents reached you safely.

With regard to the suggested settlement here, we can only inform you that we have not been approached by anyone representing the Owners, and the matter must therefore take its course in the usual way.

It would be of advantage, however, for you to let us have a note of the amount which will be required to cover your costs and outlays, so that we shall be able to deal with the matter promptly, should we be approached on the basis of the Owners coming to a settlement here. Perhaps you could have the figures separated for each of the three claims.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd) CONSTANT & CONSTANT.

Avvocato David S.M. Neill,
Via Brigata,
Bisagno 6,
GENOVA,
ITALY.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371 / 61845**

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247

E

E 6062

10 JUL

1947

PALESTINE

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 6062/84/31

70 minute

M. Cable

8 July
10Illegal Immigrant Ships.

From list of conversation with M. Ellerman
of the Compagnie de Navigation Ellerman,
re the SS "ANITA" which has been added
to the weekly list of suspect shipping because
M. Ellerman is in contact of George Tobias,
who is already suspected.

Last Paper.

0061

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

See within.

At their meeting to-day, the Working Party
on Illegal Immigration decided to release
this ship. The Working Party were
divided on the suggestion in the last
paragraph of the minute within, but have
decided to bear in mind the advisability
of interviewing suspect owners as early
as possible.

[Signature]
(J.E. CABLE)
10/7

H.B. 107

(Action
completed.)

(Ind.)

J.E. Cable

10/7

Next Paper.

E 6089

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference: **FO 371/61845**

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

Minutes.

E 6062

Jewish Illegal Immigration.

10 JUL

Mr. R.C. Ellerman, of the Compania de Navegacione Ellanita, called on me yesterday to discuss the case of the S.S. "Anita". This ship is at present at Cardiff, whence she is due to sail to Antwerp for further repairs and attention. She has been included in the weekly list of suspect shipping because Mr. Ellerman is a contact of George Fokias, who is already strongly suspect. Steps have accordingly been taken to deny her fuel, facilities and clearance.

Mr. Ellerman protested his innocence and expressed considerable concern and indignation that any suspicion should have rested upon him. He stated that the vessel was under charter to the Belgian Economic Commission, who proposed to employ her for taking coal from the United States to Belgium. This information had already been passed to us by the Panamanian Consulate-General and we have asked Brussels to verify it (telegram No. 385 of 4th July in E 5558/48/6).

~~were~~ I told Mr. Ellerman that the Foreign Office ~~were~~ not directly concerned but had merely acted as the normal channel of communication with the Panamanian Consulate-General. I told him that I would inform the Departments concerned of his visit and would arrange a meeting for him with their representatives, at which the matter could finally be cleared up.

I got in touch with Mr. Higham, Secretary of the Official Committee on Illegal Immigration, who is arranging for Mr. Ellerman to be interviewed by a panel which will include a representative of the Treasury Solicitor. If as I expect it will, the "Anita's" charter turns out to be genuine, we shall obviously have to release the ship and apologise to Mr. Ellerman.

I/

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61845**

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Minutes.

I feel that this is a case in which we might well have spoken to Mr. Ellerman before taking action against his ship and I propose to suggest, at the meeting of the working-party on 10th July, that this should be adopted as the normal procedure in the case of ships in the United Kingdom.

[Handwritten signature]
(T-E-CABLE)

8th July, 1947.

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

RECEIVED IN C.B.

9 JUL 1947

SENT TO DEP.

10 JUL 1962

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References

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E 6089

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PALESTINE

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JUL

Registry Number E6089/84/31

FROM Mr. J.W. Holmes
Office of H/C for Canada
No. AR. 35/1

Dated 8 July, 1947

Received in Registry 11 July, 1947.

Last Paper.

6062.

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/1/47

A.I.C.

✓ July. 14

(Action completed)

(Index)

Next Paper.

6093

Canadian Corvette "ARNPRIOR"Refers to Mr. Holmes' letter of 14 April
(E3198/84/31).Encloses copy of letter addressed to Acting
High Commissioner giving further information
about state of "ARNPRIOR".After demilitarization ship was bought and
left lying in Halifax shipyards. Department of
Justice say that no legal control can be exerted
over use to which she might be put therefore they
can only keep an eye on the owner.

(Minutes.)

July 10 1947

J.W. Holmes

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Reference:

FO 371

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IN REPLY PLEASE REFER
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SECRET.

E 147

OFFICE OF THE

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA,

CANADA HOUSE,

LONDON, S.W.1.

E 6089

8th July, 1947.

10 JUL

3198/84/1

Dear Beith,

I wrote to you on 14th April concerning reports we had received from the Canadian Consul-General in Lisbon about the possible purchase of the former Canadian corvette "Arnprior" for transmitting illegal immigrants into Palestine.

For your information I am enclosing a copy of a letter, dated July 2nd, addressed to the Acting High Commissioner, which will give you further information concerning the state of the "Arnprior".

Yours sincerely,

J. W. Holmes

J.G.S. Beith, Esq.,
Eastern Department,
Foreign Office, S.W.1.

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